

Introduction:

The natural Oamaru stone you have in or on your home, garden or commercial building is an investment that will give you many years of beauty.

To preserve this beauty for future generations, simple care and maintenance is recommended. This information has been put together by

Parkside Quarries to present cleaning guidelines as well as guidelines for the removal of discolouration that may occur over time. Please refer to appendix 2 - Installers and partners ([hyperlink](#)) page for professionals who specialise in the care and maintenance of Oamaru stone near you. Or call our office on (03)433 1140.

New Builds | Cleaning and sealing:

Sealing Oamaru stone is not required to comply with the durability requirements specified within NZS4210.

To assist with cleaning and to minimise moss and mould growth it is recommended a sealant be applied.

Once your new Oamaru stone building is complete, the stone should be washed down, brushed clean and any areas which have discoloured should be treated with a moss or mould killer.

There are many types of cleaners and sealants available, with varying results. Some sealants may change the colour of the Oamaru stone. Please see appendix 5 - products page ([hyperlink](#)) for products that have been used successfully in the past.

Some sealants may alter the natural colour of the stone. It is recommended that a test area on the stone be treated with the chosen sealer. If the result is unexpected, consult with the sealant supplier for next steps.

All cleaning and sealant suppliers can provide advice on surface preparation, application techniques, limitations and precautions that are specific to their individual products.

This treatment should be carried out according to the manufacturers' instructions, in some instances, this may involve using a specialist applicator.

When using the recommended products, in normal circumstances correctly treated surfaces remain water resistant for up to 10 years. Areas (such as window sills) which are constantly in a high water area may need a double coat.

Existing buildings | Cleaning and resealing:

Knowing the current condition of the stone is a critical first step.

A good test to check if the Oamaru stone needs resealing, is to spray water onto stone surface. If the water is being repelled, it will run into droplets on stone surface.

To clean Oamaru stone a moss or mould killer should be applied by following the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not clean the stone with high pressure spray as this can loosen pointing and damage the stone surface.

The manufacturer may recommend a 2nd

application of moss killer applied. At this time any repairs required (e.g. loose pointing, damaged stone) should be carried out. If this is the case, contacting one of our listed stonemasons/block layers ([hyperlink](#)) is a good idea. They will advise on how best to replace or repair the stone, as well as an estimate on the cost.

You may have bought an historic building with an ornate and original finish. In this instance, it is recommended that you seek the advice of a professional who has experience in the restoration of historic buildings. Again, please contact Parkside Quarries, the supplier of Oamaru natural stone ([hyperlink to sales@oamarustone.co.nz](mailto:sales@oamarustone.co.nz)) or refer to an installer ([hyperlink to installer link](#)) near you.