

## EXPECTED WEAR OF AQUA MIX® SEALERS

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There are many factors that affect the life or expected wear of our Aqua Mix sealers. Depending on the exposure, the surface may not need to be re-sealed for years or you may need to reapply sealer every year or two. Some of the conditions affecting the expected wear time frame are:

- **Initial application – it is important to follow manufacturer's application instructions.** If the surface is not dry, properly cleaned or prepared, insufficient material is applied, material is not given time to penetrate the surface or excess sealer is not properly removed, the expected wear can be significantly reduced. In some cases this can necessitate annual renewal of the sealer. Newly installed surfaces should be protected from contamination, including water. To assure the tile is dry, it is best to seal the tile before it is installed.
- **The type, composition and quality of the stone, ceramic tile or grout will influence the expected wear of the sealer.** The type and porosity of the surface being sealed will affect the depth that the sealer can penetrate. The hardness of the stone will determine how quickly the surface is eroded away to expose untreated stone.
- **The environmental conditions that the installation is exposed to will have an effect on the length of expected wear.** The sealed surface will be exposed to more severe conditions in exterior tile installations versus interior applications. In many exterior installations, the stone is exposed to large temperature changes. As the stone heats up it expands and as it cools down it shrinks. This constant movement will degrade the integrity of the sealer. The area adjacent to pools and water features can be constantly exposed to water and water treatment chemicals, which can weaken the sealer's effectiveness. You can expect longer wear for the sealed surface in the controlled temperature, lighter traffic and drier environment of interior applications.
- **Where and how the sealed surface is used plays a factor in the expected wear.** The expected wear of high use areas like countertops and high traffic floors will be much shorter than stationary walls. We can also expect the sealer to last longer in most residential applications than in active commercial settings like malls or hospitals.
- **Maintenance of treated surface – the types of cleaners and frequency of cleaning may shorten the expected wear of the sealed surface.** Many cleaners are made to make the cleaning process easier and do not take into account the effect they have on the sealed surface. The cleaner is designed to be safe and to not damage tile and stone surfaces. Make sure the product you select is designed to be compatible with your surface and sealer. The wrong cleaner can reduce the expected wear of the sealer. It is best to use cleaners recommended by the manufacturer of the sealer that was applied to the surface. Aqua Mix makes a full line of cleaners that are safe to use on surfaces protected by Aqua Mix sealers. Frequent cleaning of the surface can reduce the expected wear time, even when the proper cleaner is used.
- **The use of Problem Solvers will reduce the expected wear of the sealer.** Problem Solvers are a class of care products designed to address the occasional spill or contamination that damages the stone, tile or grout. Etched surfaces or spills that were not immediately cleaned up can be fixed with Aqua Mix Problem Solvers. However, these more aggressive cleaners can affect the ability of the sealer to seal the stone, tile or grout. If it is necessary to remove a deep stain or polish a dulled stone, it is best to reseal the surface immediately after the stone is repaired.



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All of these factors influence and determine how long a sealer will last. The bottom line is that you cannot expect a sealer to last a predetermined amount of time regardless of the type of material sealed or area of use. The expected wear is relative to all of these factors and is reflected by the use of the words "Up To" in our wear claims.

Aqua Mix Sealer Expected Wear:

- **Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice® Gold** - up to 15 years
- **Aqua Mix Enrich'N'Seal®** – up to 15 years
- **Aqua Mix UltraSolv®** – up to 15 years
- **Aqua Mix Pro-Solv®** – up to 10 years
- **Aqua Mix Penetrating Sealer** – up to 5 years
- **Aqua Mix Grout Sealer** – up to 5 years
- **Aqua Mix Same Day Grout Sealer** – up to 2 years
- **Aqua Mix Seal & Finish Low Sheen** - up to 3 years
- **Aqua Mix High Gloss Sealer** – up to 3 years

When assistance is needed, CUSTOM has a highly qualified technical service staff to help with specific installations based on the jobsite conditions, the materials and the Aqua Mix products being used.

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