

# **#199R**

## **Grout Haze / Grout Removal**

### **Tile, Grout, And Natural Stone Cleaner/Degreaser**

#### **USAGE DIRECTIONS:**

#199R is a safe, deep penetrating liquid, formulated to turn most lime based tile grout into mushy granular material, break the bond between tile and grout, and softens most epoxy and vinyl grout, including grout residue for easy removal.

#199R addresses the following customer problems: Removal of: Old hard caulking, Grout haze, Efflorescence, Calcium hard water deposits. Plus, #199R also removes smoke residue on natural stone and cleans off oils that deface the surface of marble, granite, and other natural and fired tiles.

#### **Directions For The Following Applications:**

- 1. Lime based grout removal aid**
- 2. Epoxy grout removal aid**
- 3. Grout haze removal**
- 4. Old hard caulking removal**
- 5. Efflorescence removal**
- 6. Smoke residue removal from limestone and other natural stone**
- 7. Calcium hard water deposits, oil, and grime removal**
- 8. Hand cleaning granite**
- 9. Hand cleaning polished marble, travertine, and limestone**
- 10. Hand cleaning honed and tumbled stone**

#### **1. Lime Based Grouts Removal**

Before starting a large grout removal job, we recommend that the following procedure be performed on a small area of the material to be removed.

First determine if the lime-based grout has a polymer-modified product in it that produces hard dense joints. For example, Polyblend Sand(ed) Grout made by Custom Building Products is a polymer-modified product. We suggest that you use the Grout Getter tool for both polymer-modified grout and non-polymer modified lime based grouts.

After you have determined the type of grout, follow the instructions below.

1. Before applying the product to the grout, scratch the grout surface with a Grout Getter tool, a grout saw, or a carbide blade tool. Scratching the surface will break the surface glaze or sealant on the grout and allow the product to penetrate the grout more easily. Alternatively, brush the grout lines with a soft wire brush first making sure it does not scratch the tile. If working in a shower, be sure to cover the drain to prevent loosened grout from clogging the drain.
2. Shake the bottle of product 2 or 3 times in order to make sure the product is thoroughly mixed before applying to the grout surface.
3. Brush or spray the solution into the grout line and let it sit on the grout for a minimum of 20 minutes before attempting to remove the grout. If it appears to be drying over that time, cover with plastic.

4. Move the Grout Getter, grout saw, or a carbide blade tool back and forth while applying a small amount of pressure on the grout surface. If the grout is not easily removed, or the grout appears to be dry, spray more products onto the grout and wait another 5 minutes. Repeat this process throughout the job. You may also spray a small amount of distilled water on the surface to reactivate the #199R cleaning solution, then brush the solution into the grout lines.

**Note:** Hard Polyblend grout will come out in layers. After each layer is removed it will require that you re-apply the Grout Removal Aid and repeat the process noted above in steps 1 thru 4.

5. Use a clean cotton cloth or sponge to remove any remaining old grout from the surface of the tile or stone before re-applying new grout.
6. If an excess of Grout Removal Aid is applied, simply rinse the area thoroughly with clean water to neutralize the product. Rinsing the grout line after removing the grout will also help ensure that the grout line is clean before re-applying new grout.
7. Before re-grouting, check each tile to make sure that tiles have not become loose over time or have been loosened during the process of removing grout. If loose tiles are found these should be attached to the backing board before re-grouting.

**Caution:** Apply only enough Grout Removal Aid to do the job. Do not use more than necessary, because the product may penetrate into or under the tile backing board and loosen the tile.

## Vertical Surfaces

When removing grout from a vertical surface, apply the Grout Removal Aid as noted in steps 1 through 3 above, and then cover the grout with a plastic food wrap or painters plastic. Covering the grout with plastic keeps the Grout Removal Aid from evaporating, thereby helping it to penetrate the grout.

**Note:** The basic elements to an affective and efficient use of Grout Removal Aid #199R are:

- a. Apply enough product to do the job.
- b. Allow enough time for the product to penetrate the grout.

**Note:** Following these steps will break the chemical bonds holding the material together and soften it for easy removal. If you have used a cleaning product that contains volatile organic compounds (VOC's) on the grout line, this will dilute the Grout Removal Aid solution that is applied and may require another application of the Grout Removal Aid.

## Tools:

The following tools are recommended in order to help make the grout removal project a success.

- GROUT GETTER / Diamond Blade Grout Removal SKU: G13D
- GROUT GETTER / Triangle Blade Grout Removal SKU: G13T
- Plastic Food Wrap
- Painters Plastic
- Spray or squirt bottle with a small nozzle
- Hydra Grout Sponge SKU: GS752

## 2. Epoxy Grout Removal:

Before starting a large grout removal job, we recommend that the following procedure be performed on a small area of the material to be removed.

1. Before applying the product to the grout, scratch the grout surface with a carbide knife or grout saw. Scratching the surface will break the surface glaze or sealant on the grout and allow the product to penetrate the grout more easily.
2. Shake the bottle of product 2 or 3 times in order to make sure the product is thoroughly mixed before applying to the grout surface.
3. Brush or spray the solution into the grout line. Cover the grout with a painter's plastic or plastic food wrap and wait a minimum 6-8 hours before attempting to remove the grout. Covering the grout with plastic will keep the Grout Removal Aid from evaporating, thereby helping it to penetrate the grout.
4. Move the carbide knife or grout saw back and forth while applying a small amount of pressure on the grout surface. If the grout is not easily removed, repeat step 3.
5. Use a clean cotton cloth or sponge to remove any remaining old grout from the surface of the tile or stone before re-applying new grout.
6. If an excess of Grout Removal Aid is applied, simply rinse the area thoroughly with clean water to neutralize the product. Rinsing the grout line after removing the grout will also help ensure that the grout line is clean before re-applying new grout.
7. Before re-grouting, check each tile to make sure that tiles have not become loose over time or have been loosened during the process of removing grout. If loose tiles are found these should be attached to the backing board before re-grouting.

**Caution:** Apply only enough Grout Removal Aid to do the job. Do not use more than necessary, because the product may penetrate into or under the tile backing board and loosen the tile.

### **Vertical Surfaces:**

When removing grout from a vertical surface, apply the Grout Removal Aid as noted in steps 1 through 3 above, and then cover the grout with painters plastic or plastic food wrap. Covering the grout with plastic keeps the Grout Removal Aid from evaporating, thereby helping it to penetrate the grout.

**Note:** The basic elements to an affective and efficient use of Grout Removal Aid #199R are:

- a. Apply enough product to do the job.
- b. Allow enough time for the product to penetrate the grout.

**Note:** Following these steps will break the chemical bonds holding the material together and soften it for easy removal.

### **3. GROUT HAZE REMOVAL**

Before starting a large grout haze removal job, we recommend that the following procedure be performed on a small area of the material to be removed.

1. Before applying the product to the grout haze area, cover grout lines with painters Blue Tape.
2. Spray product on a small area and allow the product to penetrate the grout. The amount of time required for grout haze removal will vary according to the amount of epoxy grout haze on the tile or stone surface. Start with 3-10 minutes
3. Using either #2 Norton Blue pad (or equal) removes the grout haze from the surface.
4. Once the grout haze has been loosened from the surface, apply water to removal the excess grout haze with either a sponge or vacuum equipment.
5. Clean and dry surface for sealer.

## **Required Materials for Grout Haze Removal:**

- a. Norton #2 coarse (or equal).
- b. Superiorblit white scrub pad No 85-10w Pad (or equal) for polishing the tile or stone surface before applying a tile or stone sealer.

## **TOOLS:**

The following tools are recommended in order to help make the grout removal project a success.

- Grout Getter tool or SuperiorBilt Grout Saw with carbide coated blades model 84-G58. (Commonly used by non-professional tile restorers)
- Carbide knife (Commonly used by professional for professional tile restorers use)
- Plastic Food Wrap
- Painters Plastic
- Spray or squirt bottle with a small nozzle
- Clean cotton cloth.
- Sponge – soft or rough surface depending on the tile or stone surface.

## **4. Old Hard Caulking Removal**

1. Brush or spray the solution onto the caulking line. Cover the caulking line with a painters plastic or plastic food wrap and wait a minimum 45 minutes to 2 hours.
2. Check caulking line after 45 minutes as the material should start to soften and or become easy to remove from the surface area with a plastic or metal knife. Covering the caulking with plastic will keep the #199R product from evaporating, thereby helping it to penetrate the caulking.

## **5. Efflorescence Removal**

Before starting a large efflorescence removal job, we recommend that the following procedure be performed on a small area of the material to be removed.

1. Before applying the product to the efflorescence area, spray #199R product on a small area and allow the product to penetrate the efflorescence area. The amount of time required for efflorescence removal will vary according to the amount of efflorescence on the tile or stone surface. Start with 2-10 minutes.
2. Using either #2 Norton Blue pad (or equal) or White polishing pad #1 remove the efflorescence from the surface.
3. Once the efflorescence has been loosened from the surface, apply water to removal the excess with either a sponge or vacuum equipment.
4. Clean and dry surface for sealer.

## **6. Calcium Hard Water Deposits With Natural Oils and Grime Removal**

**Caution:** Do not use the #199R cleaning solution on grout or caulk that contains siliconized acrylic latex; because, this will either cause the bond to fail or remove the caulk. #199R used as a cleaning solution should not stay on lime or epoxy grout for longer than five minutes. If you leave the #199R solution on any grout areas longer than 15 minutes it may result in failure or weakening of the grout and may result in having to re-grout failed or removed grout areas.

## **7. Smoke Residue Removal From Limestone And Other Natural Stone**

Before starting a large cleaning job, we recommend that the following procedure be performed on a small area of the material to be removed.

1. Apply the #199R solution to the area to be cleaned and cover with plastic. Let the solution sit on the area to be cleaned for about one hour, then scrub with AquaEz model BA24 wire brush used to clean swimming pool tile. The AquaEz model BA24 wire brush can be used with a 10" Stainless Steel Brush attachment – fits Pool handle. (can be purchased on Lowe's Product number 102922).
2. Use #2 coarse pads or polishing pads for cleaning. Apply more of the #199R solution as needed.
3. Apply distilled water to increase absorption into the stone, scrub with a stiff bristle brush and remove wet soot with a wet/dry vacuum may also be necessary.

## **8. Hand Cleaning Granite**

Granite is a crystalline silicate stone and can have microscopic voids between the crystals; therefore, it is susceptible to water-based stains such as, water spots caused by calcium deposits and common oil-based stains such as bacon grease and cooking oil.

### **Required Materials for Cleaning are:**

- a. Norton #2 coarse pad or Brass Stripper Brush made by Workforce 330-761 (or equal) for water spots (calcium deposits) and oils on the stone surface.
  - b. Superiorblit white scrub pad No 85-10w Pad (or equal) for polishing the stone surface before applying the granite sealer.
1. Apply the #199R cleaning solution to the area to be cleaned. Let the solution sit on the area to be cleaned for about one or two minutes, then scrub with #2 coarse pads or polishing pads. Apply more of the #199R solution as needed, while either scrubbing or polishing problem areas such as stains, watermarks, and light etching in the granite surface until clean.
  2. Rinse with clean water, let dry, and re-apply the correct sealer purchased from a professional Tile and Stone Care Store.

## **9. Hand Cleaning Polished Marble, Travertine, And Limestone**

Polished Marble, travertine, and limestone are more porous and less dense than granite. Because these are calcite stones, acid-based items such as coffee, mustard, wine, and vinegar cause stains to the surface; therefore, cleaners having large amounts of volatile organic compounds or acid will either etch or slowly eat away at the stone. The #199R cleaning solution will not etch or eat away the natural stone.

### **Required Materials for Cleaning are:**

- a. Norton #2 coarse pad (or equal) for water spots (calcium deposits) and oils on the stone surface.
- b. Superiorblit white scrub pad No 85-10w Pad (or equal) for polishing the stone surface before applying the granite sealer.

1. Apply the #199R solution to the area to be cleaned. Let the solution sit on the area to be cleaned for about one or two minutes, then scrub with #2 coarse pads or polishing pads. Apply more of the #199R solution as needed, while either scrubbing or polishing problem areas such as stains, watermarks, and light etching in the marble, travertine, or limestone until clean. Use the polishing pad for finally stage before step 2.
2. Rinse with clean water, let dry, and re-apply the correct sealer purchased from a professional Tile and Stone Care Store.

## **10. Hand Cleaning Honed And Tumbled Stone**

The distinctive, rough texture of honed or tumbled stone is a very popular aesthetic, but presents unique challenges for cleaning and protection because, it has more gaps and cavities per square inch than any other stone finish. This increases the stone's vulnerability to etching from common acidic products and to mold growth from organic residue settling in the irregularities of the surface, especially in damp areas such as showers or baths.

### **Required Materials for Cleaning are:**

- a. Stiff bristle brushes of different sizes in order to clean all the small gaps and cavities in the natural stone.
  - b. Norton #2 coarse pad for water spots (calcium deposits) and oils on the stone surface.
  - c. Superiorblit white scrub pad No 85-10w Pad (or equal) for polishing the stone surface before applying the stone sealer.
1. Apply the solution to the area to be cleaned. Let the solution sit on the area to be cleaned for about one to four minutes, then scrub with a stiff bristle brush. Apply more of the #199R solution as needed while scrubbing the area being cleaned. Use the polishing pad for finally stage before step 2.
  2. Rinse with clean water, let dry, and re-apply the correct sealer purchased from a professional Tile and Stone Care Store.

You can find the most of the recommended tools and products at Ace/True Value Hardware, [www.groutgetter.com](http://www.groutgetter.com), or [www.betterbiosolutions.com](http://www.betterbiosolutions.com).

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