

# How to achieve a wet or polished look on slate

## Step-by-Step Guidance to Achieve a Wet or Polished Look on Slate:

### 1. Understand the Surface Finish You Have

- If the slate has a cleft (rough or layered) finish, polishing in the traditional sense is not practical.
- If the slate has been ground flat or is honed, some sheen can be achieved using mechanical polishing techniques and products.

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### ?Product Options Based on Your Desired Finish:

#### ? For a Wet Look (Enhanced Color, Slight Sheen):

Use a **color-enhancing penetrating sealer** — sometimes called an **enhancing impregnator**. These do not sit on the surface but darken the stone and highlight the natural tones.

**Recommended types (available from brands like StoneTech, Tenax, or Miracle Sealants):**

- *StoneTech Enhancer Pro*
- *Tenax Ager*
- *Miracle 511 Seal & Enhance*

**Application Tip:** Apply to a clean, dry slate surface. Usually applied

with a cloth or sponge, let it soak in, then wipe off the excess. Always test in a small area first.

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## ? For a Glossy or Polished Look (Film-Forming Shine):

Use a **topical coating or acrylic finish**, which adds a layer on top of the slate and gives it that “wet-look shine.” These are often used on interior slate or covered porches but may require maintenance over time.

### Suggested types:

- *Glaze ‘N Seal Wet Look Lacquer*
- *Aqua Mix High-Gloss Sealer*
- *Stonetech High Gloss Finishing Sealer*

⚠️ **Note:** Topical coatings can make the surface slippery and will need to be stripped and reapplied over time. Not recommended for high-traffic exterior areas exposed to rain or freeze-thaw conditions.

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## ? Important Preparation:

Before applying any sealer or coating:

- Strip off any old sealers or coatings with a **stone-safe stripper**.
- Clean thoroughly with a stone-safe alkaline cleaner.
- Let the surface dry completely — 24–48 hours is ideal, especially for exterior slate.

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## ? What Not to Do:

- Don't attempt to mechanically polish cleft slate; it won't yield a uniform shine.
- Avoid wax-based coatings unless you're prepared for frequent reapplication and possible buildup.
- Do not use vinegar, acidic cleaners, or standard tile glossers — they can damage the stone.

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## Conclusion:

To get that polished or wet look you'll likely need a **color-enhancing sealer** or a **glossy topical coating**, depending on the tolerance for maintenance.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** Fred Hueston is the author of [Stone and Tile Restoration: The Manual](#), a comprehensive online manual for stone and tile restoration contractors. He is also Chief Technical Director for Surface Care PROS ([www.backstage.surfacecarepros.com](http://www.backstage.surfacecarepros.com)), and Stone Forensics ([www.stoneforensics.com](http://www.stoneforensics.com)) [[Learn more about Fred.](#)]

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