

Two Ways to Test Stone Sealer Performance

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If you want to do a field test to find out whether the sealer on natural stone is performing, you can choose a quick, informal test, no equipment required, or a more scientific test using a Rilem tube. Here are the details.

Absorbency Test Instructions

- Take a drop or two of water and place it on the surface of the stone.
- Record the time it takes to soak into the stone.
- If the water soaks into the stone in under five minutes, the stone is absorbent, which means the sealer is not performing.

A more scientific approach to check absorbency is to use a RILEM tube.” This is a relatively easy, fast test that can provide quantitative results. Here are instructions.

Rilem Tube Test Instructions

- Place the tube on the surface of the stone.
- Fill the tube with water.
- Note the water level.
- Wait twenty minutes.
- Note the water level again.
- If the stone is absorbent, the water in the tube will lower, which means the sealer is not performing.

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) and Stone Forensics (www.stoneforensics.com) [\[Learn more about Fred.\]](#)

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