

What is the best way to clean a gray slate floor? It streaks every time I mop it, and the mop seems to shed on the floor.

It sounds as though your slate floor has a rough finish which catches the fibers of the mop as it is dragged across the floor. First, you need to deep-clean the floor to remove all dirt and grime. Next, apply a good-quality acrylic sealer. Several coats may be necessary. The acrylic sealer should make future cleaning much easier. Clean the floor with a neutral cleaner and re-apply the sealer as needed.

TIP When buying a sealer for slate, be sure to purchase a high solids type designed for stone surfaces. Do not over apply, any coating will need to be striped at some point. Applying too much sealer will make the stripping process difficult.

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