

A. INTRODUCTION

Diresco is the only producer of quartz composite stone in the Benelux. The company guarantees Belgian quality, which is constantly being improved thanks to the efforts of all the personnel at every level of the company.

D-Quartz offers products with superior qualities to those of even the most durable natural stone: scratch resistance, water resistance, colour-fastness and dimensional stability, frost resistance and corrosion resistance. Our products also offer excellent mechanical strength.

This engineered stone can be used without any difficulty in practically any environment and under the most diverse conditions.

Furthermore, it is perfectly compatible with a wide variety of other materials such as stainless steel, stone, wood and glass.

- Diresco's quartz composite slabs meet the requirements of standard **NBN EN 15388**.
- Diresco is certified according to **ISO 14001** and **ISO 9001**.
- Diresco meets the requirements of various food/safety certificates (**NSF, Greenguard Gold, VOC..**)

The slabs are available in three thicknesses:

- 12 mm
- 20 mm
- 30 mm

and in three finishes:

- Polished
- Velvet (honed)
- Anticato (not available in all versions)

The standard dimensions of our slabs are 318 x 155 cm.

For more information on our products and dealers, please consult:

- a. our website www.diresco.be
- b. our sales department

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Industrieweg-Noord 1134
B-3660 Oudsbergen
Tel. +32 (0)89 85 69 44

Instructions for using Diresco slabs

B. TIPS and REQUIREMENTS FOR FITTERS

1. INSPECTION

Before sawing or processing the slabs, they should always be checked for nonconformities (**the protective film must be removed**). Diresco guarantees a very stringent final inspection, but despite our best efforts it is always possible that a defect may go unobserved.

Information concerning the supplied materials is given in the Diresco instruction leaflet "**IN 7.5.1.4.7 Guarantee conditions for quartz composite slabs**", which is available from Diresco N.V. on request.

Always check that the colours match (if more than one slab will be required for the same project). Diresco Stone is produced from approximately 93% natural raw materials (quartz). As a result, there may be slight variations in the shade of the products!

Diresco accepts no complaints for any damage occurring as a result of handling and/or processing of the slabs after they leave the factory.

2. Safety of the staff

In addition to all the standard general safety precautions, professional fitters of quartz composite slabs must comply with a number of safety precautions that are specific to quartz composite materials. "**LI 7.5.1.4.8 Safety data sheet**": available from Diresco N.V. on request.

3. STORAGE

Our slabs should be stored in a moisture-free environment. If this is not possible, they should be stored under a roof or a non-permeable tarpaulin. If the slabs will be stored in winter or in extreme cold in a non-heated location, before carrying out any sawing it is advisable to acclimatise the slabs for at least 24 hours in an environment that has the same temperature as the environment in which the sawing will be carried out. This will prevent cracking by expansion (when the slabs are sawn). It is advisable always to store the slabs on a stable frame that offers sufficient support.

4. COOLING WATER

Experience demonstrates that problems can be caused by the quality of the water used for cooling. In some companies that also cut or process natural stone such as marble or limestone, it can happen that, due to the high alkaline value of this type of stone, the pH value of the (usually recycled) water is too high. When using recycled water, always make sure the pH value is around 7.5.

5. SAWING

The table on which the slabs are sawn or drilled must always be stable, level and clean. The surface of the table should not have too many sawmarks or too much damage, as this will make the material less stable.

The sawblade must be in perfect working order. It must be perpendicular and must have no broken teeth. The product ranges of the best-known manufacturers include special sawblades for quartz composite.

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When sawing surfaces, always use plenty of clean water to cool the material and the sawblade to prevent cracking and colour changes due to overheating of the cutting edge. When sawing quartz composite, the material must be kept **colder** than would be the case with natural stone.

We recommend that an expansion gap of at least 3 mm be left on each side of the hob or sink, even if a section has to be fitted between fixed points (e.g. in an alcove or between a pillar and a wall). The thermal expansion coefficient for Diresco Stone is 0.018 mm/metre °K. "**IN 7.5.1.4.6 Technical specifications for composite slabs**" is available from Diresco N.V. on request.

It is advisable to use a separate squeegee to prevent the surface being damaged by limescale (alkaline dust from natural stone). Always clean the suction cup to remove traces of limescale.

If finished articles are stored on stands or racks, always make sure that the polished side does not come in contact with the protective strips and/or other soiled parts and components as any silicone and/or alkaline dust that may be present can be detrimental to the surface of the slab.

6. POLISHING

A sufficient flow of clean water should always be available when polishing slabs to prevent discolouring of the stone due to heat or the burning of the resins.

Always follow closely the instructions of the manufacturer or supplier of the polishing materials! You can contact the manufacturer or supplier at any time for more detailed information on the polishing of composite stone.

As regards drilling, the rule of thumb is: diamonds are a slab's best friend! And always remember that the material must be sufficiently cooled with clean water for drilling/milling.

7. ADHESIVES

Most adhesive manufacturers offer specialised products for quartz composites. This type of adhesive offers very high resistance to shock and impact. These manufacturers also have in their range a number of coloured adhesives for virtually every application.

When using silicone sealant (always acid-free), the edges of the material to be bonded should be protected with robust solvent-free masking tape. This prevents the formation of dirt that can be difficult to remove or can damage the surface.

Extra care should be taken with Anticato, as silicone residue is very difficult to remove due to the fact that this product has a rougher surface.

When removing silicone residue, always be very careful and in particular do not leave any cloths on the stone on which there are traces of the silicone removal product. The chemical composition of certain substances, for example silicone removers, could have disastrous consequences for the material. Always rinse thoroughly with clean water!

Even if a product evaporates immediately (e.g. acetone), the product will always leave a harmful film on the slab that may damage the surface.

The instructions of the manufacturer or supplier of the adhesive must always be followed closely!

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Please contact these suppliers for more detailed information on the use of adhesives with composite stone.

8. SUPPLIERS OF ADHESIVES, GROUT, SILICONE, MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

Fitters and end users should first read in full the product and safety data sheets and be familiar with the product characteristics, the instructions for use and the safety instructions of the manufacturers. The following list gives just a few of the products currently available on the market.

• Adhesives

- Omnicol: www.omnicol.eu
- Mapei: www.mapei.com
- Weber: www.weber.com
- Ardex: www.ardex.eu
- Integra: www.integra-adhesives.com/nl
- Akemi: www.akemi.com
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• Grout

- Mapei: www.mapei.com
- Omnicol: www.omnicol.eu
- Ardex: www.ardex.eu
- Weber: www.weber.com
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• Silicone

- Mapei: www.mapei.com
- Akemi: www.akemi.com
- Ardex: www.ardex.eu
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• Anti-stain/Maintenance products

- Akemi: www.akemi.com
- Moellerstonecare: www.moellerstonecare.eu
- Lithofin / Eurosil: www.lithofin.eu
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• Sealing membranes

- Schlüter: www.schlueter-systems.com

• Uncoupling membranes

- Schlüter: www.schlueter-systems.com
- Omnicol: www.omnicol.eu
- Blanke: www.blanke-co.com
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• Working tools

- Grubau: www.grubau.be
- Schlüter: www.schluter-systems.com
- Tyrolit: www.tyrolit.com
- Hilti: www.Hilti.com
- Diamont Boart: www.diamont-boart.com
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9. USE FOR FLOORING:

This information is available in our instruction leaflet IN 7.5.1.4.15 'Advice for using Diresco Tiles', which is available from Diresco N.V. on request.

10 INTRODUCTION OF NEW VELVET FINISH

The luxurious look and feel of this surface finishing adds aesthetical value and guarantees an excellent thickness, deep colour and far greater maintenance-friendliness.

The big advantage of this finish is that it **doesn't require** surface protection (Protector).

11 USING ANTICATO (SHOT-BLASTED) DIRESCO STONE

Instead of the usual polished (sealed) surface, these Diresco Stone products are characterised by a rough surface. As a result, the worktop will be more prone to fingerprints and/or grease stains.

To avoid this, please rub the top before use with a quartz composite anti-stain product of the type available from specialised dealers. **The instructions of the anti-stain product must always be followed.** Before initiating this treatment, always make sure that the untreated slab has been properly cleaned. An Anticato worktop should always be cleaned with a high-pressure cleaner to prevent the slab from becoming pitted with wells where there may be a build-up of cutting residue or dirt. If the surface is not properly cleaned, any residue may once again be visible after the treatment, as dirt can get under the anti-stain product and is therefore VERY DIFFICULT to remove.

We advise end customers who opt for an Anticato quartz composite worktop to use a maintenance product for quartz composites of the type that is available from specialised dealers (or, if desired, to treat it with a colour enhancing agent). Please consult your supplier.

If these guidelines are followed, you will have few problems, if any.

Nonetheless, you should always bear in mind that these products are less uniform in colour than the polished versions.

12 DAILY MAINTENANCE

Like any other material Composite Quartz has **no self-cleaning capability.**

So normal stains like oil, grease and lime scale must always be removed to allow the worktop to retain its attractive, original look.

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Normal maintenance is the easiest way of keeping Diresco Stone shiny and attractive for many years. The most frequently occurring stains are simple to remove by daily cleaning with a moistened long-hair microfiber cloth and by using a neutral residue-free colourless cleaning agent. We recommend more intensive cleaning to remove more severe stains.

For professional advice on this matter you can always contact without any obligation companies such as Lithofin, Akemi and Moellerstonecare which have suitable products in the market. Be careful when using some detergents because they place a “film” on the worktop.

Food remnants that harden after drying (such as chewing gum, mustard and grease) should first be scraped away by means of a blunt plastic scraper. Then clean and rinse with pure water.

13 IMPORTANT NOTE!

- Never use an abrasive cleaner, a scourer or steel wool, as this can damage the finish and cause dull stains.
- Do not use cleaning products that contain bleach or ammonia or substances with a pH value higher than 10. Therefore, care should be taken with certain dishwasher tablets.
- Certain aggressive chemicals (such as those used in oven cleaners or in drain clearing products) may cause permanent damage to the surface. Additionally, trichloroethane, methylene chloride, paint stripper and cleaning products with a high alkaline content or pH value should be avoided. Also, do not use cleaning products based on marble flour.
- Do not use silicone-based cleaning products.
- Avoid contact with marking or printing inks.
- **NEVER** place hot pans, cooking pots or equipment directly on the surface. Instead, always use a trivet or coaster, as this will prevent discolouring of the slab.
- Always use a chopping board when cutting or handling food to avoid leaving cutting marks on the worktop.
- Never sit or stand on the slab, as this may cause cracks resulting from extreme pressure, in particular at unsupported and overhanging sections of the worktop.
- Do not use Diresco quartz composite as swimming pool coating or for any other applications where the composite slab is exposed to chemicals, extreme heat, a naked flame or ultraviolet radiation.
- In view of the density of the (non-porous) material, bacteria and moulds have no chance. Diresco meets the requirements of various food safety certificates (NSF, Greenguard Gold, VOC,...)

14 GUARANTEE:

The guarantee conditions are specified in document 7.5.1.4.7 “Guarantee conditions for quartz composite slabs”. This document can be obtained from Diresco N.V.

The following documents concern the guarantee:

Inspection of standard quartz composite slabs: LI 7.5.1.4.13

Technical specifications of composite slabs: LI 7.5.1.4.6

Customer complaint form: FO 8.3.3

15 FOOTNOTE

This brochure was very carefully put together and is intended merely as a guide. It offers no guarantee and is designed only to provide assistance and additional help for the processing and maintenance of quartz composite stone.