LIVING NORTH Case Study

Restoration Man

Paul Coyle is a trusted name, offering the supply, installation and restoration of natural stone and slate flooring – and he's got some seriously impressive projects under his belt



Over his 20 years in business, Paul Coyle has worked for varied and prestigious clients from London to Northumberland, including professional footballers, Newcastle University and the iconic Alnwick Castle – as well as many private clients across the region. His portfolio runs from full stone floor restoration projects on floors which are hundreds of years old, to the supply and fit of brand new, modern flooring, and even bathrooms.

For the last four years, Paul and his son Regan, who joined the business four years ago, have gone in to Alnwick Castle each February to restore the floors in the public areas. When they first went in (in 2014) they and the team had to deal with a black sticky residue which had been used as an adhesive many years before. Using only natural soap and up-to-date methods and machinery, and of course a method statement agreed with the Castle management in advance, the floors are back to prebitumen condition and none the worse for wear. The floors are now regularly deep cleaned and sealed ready for the thousands of shoes which traipse over them every year during visitor season.

Paul and his team don't just deal with stately homes and antique stone – they can supply and install as well as restore, and much of their work has a modern, high-end finish.

Restoration is a key part of their business though – and often this means they offer a continued service to customers who have had floors installed – returning occasionally over the years to restore the floor to its original condition.

A large proportion of their clients have limestone or travertine stone floors that require restoration, and planned maintenance thereafter. A typical restoration takes around three days, and involves carrying out repairs if required, which can include cracks, chips or stone replacement. Once repairs are complete, the floors are stripped and deep cleaned (the grout lines are deep cleaned too). After that, a full diamond polish leaves floors shining – or finished exactly as the client chooses.

This can include remedial work to stained, marked and cracked stone, etched or dull stone, and even dangerously slippy stone, granite, or slate. Among the techniques they use to restore floors sympathetically and carefully are the application of high-tech coatings (including anti-slip coatings), stain removal, sealing, grinding, resurfacing and polishing.

The fact that people will ask Paul and his team to return proves that their service and finish are second to none. Customers aren't just getting a highly-experienced and highly-trained technical team. They're also getting an outstanding personal service – the feedback Paul receives from speaks for itself. He is number one out of 2,500 flooring and tile companies on business review site Free Index, with more than 120 of his customers having left outstanding reviews. The numerous testimonials on the website further confirm the outstanding service you can expect from Paul and his whole team.

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