



stone initiatives

Kate Tonkin

Materials testing specialist
Finishes evaluation

A skilled materials testing specialist with experience across a range of prominent architectural projects; industry expert on selection of penetrating sealers for the protection of hard surfaces; internationally recognised NATA signatory for Slip Resistance and Accelerated Wear testing.

CONTACT

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ABOUT

Kate Tonkin oversees the Surface Finish Evaluation department at Stone Initiatives, encompassing slip-resistance, accelerated wear, stain-resistance and sealer selection.

Over the past nine years, she has gained valuable experience across a range of prominent commercial architecture projects, mentored junior staff members, and helped to develop an industry-recognised standard test method for determining the stain resistance of hard surfaces.

Kate is currently undertaking a detailed investigation into the effect of wear on the surface characteristic of granite finishes. She is motivated in her work by seeing how the effective use of dimension stone contributes to the creation of outstanding building projects.

RELEVANT INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

2012 – Present

Head of Surface Finishes Department

Stone Initiatives & Materials Testing Group Pty Ltd

Employed as materials testing specialist – finishes evaluation services. Responsibilities include:

- Overseeing the Surfaces Finishes Department, including mentoring junior staff.
- Undertaking in-lab and on-site testing for slip-resistance, accelerated wear and stain-resistance; assessing and advising on sealer selection for natural stone and pedestrian surfaces.
- Carrying out services relating to stone application during the course of construction, for example, the assessment of surface coatings, anti-graffiti coatings, compatibility of mastic, slip resistance etc.
- Assessing selected stone according to its suitability

for purpose (e.g. colour, strength, durability, abrasion resistance and stability).

- Liaison with architects regarding the relevant physical properties of the material.
- Assisting in compiling a specification for stone supply for tender purposes.
- Supervising additional testing as required to confirm the suitability of the stone for the project (acceptance testing). Assessing and interpreting these results for communication to the client.

2003 – 2006

Receptionist

*Primary Health Care Research & Information Service,
Flinders University*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

NATA signatory

Slip Resistance and Accelerated Wear Testing

CONSULTANCY HIGHLIGHTS

Jewel (Gold Coast, 2017 – 2018 and 2021)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

One Sydney Harbour, R1 and R2 (Sydney, 2020 – 2021)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

Crown Resorts (Sydney, 2019 – 2020)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

Skycity (Adelaide, 2019 – 2020)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes.

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Adelaide Festival Plaza (Adelaide, 2019 – 2020)

Responsibilities: Slip resistance testing and evaluation of paving.

Melbourne Quarter (Melbourne, 2018 – 2020)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

Ritz Carlton (Melbourne, 2019 – 2020)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

Queen & Collins (Melbourne, 2018 – 2020)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

RAAF Air7000 Airbase (Edinburgh, 2017 – 2019)

Responsibilities: Slip resistance testing.

Karrinyup Shopping Centre (Perth, 2019)

Responsibilities: Slip resistance and accelerated wear of flooring finishes.

Grosvenor Place (Sydney, 2019)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes.

Gawler Place (Adelaide, 2019)

Responsibilities: Slip resistance testing and evaluation of paving.

Sofitel Darling Harbour (Sydney, 2018)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

ANZAC Walk (Adelaide, 2016)

Responsibilities: Slip resistance testing and evaluation of paving.

Barangaroo Towers (Sydney, 2014 – 2016)

Responsibilities: Testing and evaluation of surface finishes and sealer systems.

