Washing: When carrying out regular cleaning on stone floors trust one should be minimal and carefully controlled. On some tenement stairs, excessive use of water can result in moisture build up in the fabric of the landings and adjacent floors. This leads to progressive saturation of the structure underneath the slabs, resulting in timber decay and damp issues.

Damage: Should pointing break up, corners break off, or slabs crack, it is important to identify the cause, for example: wear and tear, impact, or something falling underneath. Wear and tear can be repaired as described above, but other events should be investigated in greater depth, and may involve lifting the slab and re-bedding.

Further reading
Care and Repair of Georgian Houses

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Carmylie slab sealed with linseed oil; note lime pointing to wide joint on upper side

Historic impact damage showing subsequent repair

While every care has been taken in the preparation of this leaflet, Historic Scotland specifically exclude any liability for errors, omissions or otherwise arising from its contents and readers must satisfy themselves as to the principles and practices described.
Stone Floors

Stone floors have been an important feature in traditional Scottish buildings for centuries. Stone floors differ in type, depending on where they were used. In upper floors, such as kitchens and halls, stone floors were commonly used on the ground floor in corridors or service areas. The substrate of a stone floor obviously varies from the 18th C onwards, tended to have not changed substantially, although later lines, although the next row may vary slightly for the wider joints. Slabs were always laid in stone or slate allowed narrower joints, but in all cases the joint width may vary slightly. The stone used varied from sandstone to slate. With the advent of hard materials, some detergent may be added to the stone giving a good cleaning surface and, as required. With regard to ongoing care, prolonged exposure to water. The smooth and sealed, there should not be a heavy burden of water. Hard materials, some detergent may be added to the stone giving a good cleaning surface and, as required. With regard to ongoing care, prolonged exposure to water. The smooth and sealed, there should not be a heavy burden of water.