

STAIN IDENTIFICATION

5 MAIN CLASSIFICATIONS OF STAINS:

Organic stains: coffee, tea, food coloring, mustard, ketchup etc.

Inorganic stains: ink, colour dyes, soil from plant pots, etc.

Oil stains: vegetable oil, motor oil, butter, fats, skin oils etc.

Biological stains: mildew, mold, etc.

Metal stains: rust, copper, etc.

Please Note: a stain is always darker than the stone. If the damage appears lighter than the stone it is likely an Etch. Etch marks are caused by acidic products or alcohol coming in contact with the surface of the stone which has a chemical reaction. This is typical of marble as it is calcium based. Granite will not etch very easily unless there are traces of calcium in the granite. If it is an Etch mark this needs refinishing to remove it. If it is a Stain then you will need to poultice it out.

POULTICE INGREDIENTS

Organic stains: Hydrogen peroxide (30/40 percent)
Drugstore peroxide is not strong enough.

Please note that hydrogen peroxide will etch calcium-based stones like marble and limestone (Not granite). This means that once the stain is removed with this chemical the surface will require refinishing.

Inorganic stains: Hydrogen peroxide (30/40 percent) or rubbing alcohol.

Oil stains: Acetone available at local Home Depot stores.

Biological stains: Household bleach and or a Mildew remover that is safe for stone

Metal stains: A product called 'Iron-out' from Home Depot works well. Also a product from Alpha Tools called **RSR-2000** works very well on removing rust stains.

POULTICE POWDER OPTIONS:

- White talcum powder
- White flour
- White Baby Powder
- Poultice powder can be purchased from many Tile Supply Showrooms.

HOW TO PREPARE A POULTICE

WEAR RUBBER GLOVES & GOGGLES

1. Stainless steel bowl and wood spatula
2. Combine powder with chemical of choice
3. Mix to consistency of sour cream (not too runny or thick)
Note: For Rust when using Iron-Out dissolve in water first then add to powder
4. Wet the area of the stain for a few minutes then blot dry
5. Apply poultice over the stain and overlap the stain by about 1 inch, keeping the paste to about ¼ inch thick
6. Cover the poultice with a poly or plastic like Saharan Wrap and tape down
7. Poke a few air holes in the plastic
8. Keep it covered for 24 hours
9. Remove plastic, carefully scrap off powder with plastic scraper, clean with neutral cleaner and allow to dry. Inspect. If stain still present you may need to poultice again.

Note:

Some stains are permanent and may never come out. Others may need several attempts made or a different chemical may be needed.

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STAIN & ETCH COMBINATION

Sometimes you will get a stain etch combo. This can happen when wine is spilled on a limestone or marble top. If the red tannins penetrate the stone and leave a dark red area, this is a stain. The alcohol will also etch the surface leaving a lighter dull patch. The wine stain requires poulticing out and the etch marks requires refinishing to restore the surface back to its original beauty.

If you do not wish to tackle stain removal yourself, please feel free to give us a call and we can do our best to help you out.