

Stain Removal Guide

Natural stone is porous by nature and will stain. Because stone is porous you can sometimes remove the stain by reversing the staining process. If you re-absorb the stain into a medium, you can remove it from the stone. The typical medium is called a poultice.

Stains should be treated as soon as possible. As time goes by it becomes increasingly difficult to remove the stain. Attempts to remove stains should not precede stain determination. Using the appropriate removal technique is important to achieve desired results. You must ask questions to determine what the stain is. What is the color? Where is it located? How long has it been there? Is it associated with the main traffic areas? Are plants near the stain? Etc..

Test patches will need to be performed. In many cases it will take several tests. Once the stain has been identified the following procedures can be followed.

POULTICING MATERIALS:

COTTON BALLS
PAPER TOWELS
FABRIC

POULTICING POWDERS:

POULTICE PLUS
CLAYS, FULLERS EARTH
DIATOMACEOUS EARTH

Poultice Plus powder, clays and diatomaceous earth are usually the best. Many stains are so deeply imbedded that a chemical solution will need to be added to the poultice to dilute and/or react with the stain. The process can be simple.

Mix Poultice Plus powder with the chemical you have selected, to make a paste like substance. Apply the paste to the stain and do not let any excess drip or spill onto adjacent clean areas. The paste should have a consistency similar to peanut butter. The paste should be applied approximately 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick overlapping the stain by 1/2 to 1 inches. Cover the area with plastic wrap and secure the edges down with non-marking tape. The poultice must dry completely. As the poultice dries it will pull the stain from the area into the paste. Drying time is usually 24-48 hours depending on the type of poultice being utilized. If the stain has improved, re-apply the poultice. Multiple applications may be required.

SPECIAL NOTES:

Some chemicals necessary for stain removal will remove the finish on polished marble, limestone, terrazzo and travertine. As a result, re-polishing with abrasives or polishing compounds may be necessary.

TYPICAL STAINS:

ORGANIC:	Coffee, tea, tobacco, food, cosmetics, plant, food.
INORGANIC:	Rust, iron, bronze, steel, metal.
BIOLOGICAL:	Mildew, mold, fungus and algae.
OIL BASE:	Grease, cooking oil, food stains, tar, body oil
INK:	Ball Point Pen or Magic Marker.

ALWAYS TEST A SMALL AREA TO ENSURE THE DESIRED RESULTS

CHALLENGE

SOLUTION

IRON STAINS:

Clean with one of the following:

1. Miracle Sealants Liquid Poultice	3. Oxalic Acid
2. Heavy Duty Acidic Cleaner	4. Naval Jelly
	5. Ammonium Oxalate

INK STAINS:

Poultice with one of the following:

1. Miracle Sealants Liquid Poultice	3. Light Colors: Bleach or Hydrogen Peroxide
2. Miracle Sealants Mira Strip	4. Dark Colors: Acetone or Lacquer Thinner

OIL BASE STAINS: Clean with
1. Miracle Sealants Tile & Stone Cleaner 4. Bleach
2. Miracle Sealants Liquid Poultice 5. Household Detergent
3. Miracle Sealants Mira Strip 6. Ammonia
7. Mineral Spirits

Poultice with one of the following:
1. Mineral Spirits 3. Methyl Chloride
2. Miracle Sealants Mira Strip

ORGANIC STAINS: Clean with:
1. Miracle Sealants Tile & Stone Cleaner
2. Miracle Sealants Liquid Poultice
3. 35% Hydrogen Peroxide. Pour directly on the stain and then add a few drops of ammonia. Leave until bubbling stop.
Poultice with same as above.

COPPER STAINS: Poultice with:
1. Ammonia Chloride 2. Ammonia Hydroxide

BIOLOGICAL STAINS: Clean with:
1. Miracle Sealants Tile & Stone Cleaner 3. Diluted Ammonia
2. Miracle Sealants Liquid Poultice 4. Bleach

CRYSTALLIZATION COATINGS: Rehone the Surface With Abrasives.

GROUT & THIN SET RESIDUE:

Cementitious:

Clean with

1. Miracle Sealants HDAC

On Polished Surfaces:

Not recommended

On Honed Surfaces:

Dilute to a ratio of 5 - 1

On Flamed or Textured Surfaces:

Dilute to a ratio of 3 - 1

Epoxy:

Clean with:

1. Miracle Sealants Epoxy Grout Film Remover

On All Surfaces:

Use undiluted