

How To Remove Stains From Marble & Granite

Marble and granite countertops are gorgeous but they are porous and will soak in all manner of liquids that can leave stains (even sitting water can cause stains!). Here are some poultice recipes & stain removers that can help remove those. Many types of liquids and sauces can stain the stone including fruit juices, wine, coffee, tea, water, vinegar, vegetable and olive oils, ketchup, bbq sauce, grease splatters—etc. Marble surfaces are easily damaged from careless cleaning methods like using an extra-hard brush and abrasive cleaners. Make sure while cleaning marble to use neutral cleaning agents to not damage it. Examples of neutral agents to use are baking soda, hydrogen peroxide, and cornstarch. Always blot at the stain rather than wiping it. If you want to make life easier in the future, use a sealant regularly to keep the marble clean.

Baking Soda Stain Remover Poultice: Mainly for Acidic Stains

First blot the stain to remove as much of the substance as possible.

Next, spray the stain with water.

Cover the stain completely with a paste made from baking soda and water (to the consistency of sour cream). Cover with plastic wrap.

Leave the stain covered for at least 24 hours, the baking soda will dry and pull up much of the stain.

After 24 hours, remove the poultice and wash area with mild soap and water. Apply a fresh poultice if needed.

Liquid Soap Poultice: For mostly Nail polish stains.

Dilute some hand dishwashing liquid in about a half liter of lukewarm water and gently dab at the stain with a clean white cloth. Do not let the dishwashing liquid stand; wipe off the soapy residue with another clean damp cloth and wipe the area dry. Repeat the process as many times as it takes to remove the stain entirely.

Flour & Liquid Soap Poultice

1 cup unbleached flour

3 TBS liquid dishwashing detergent (no bleach, use a gentle soap like Ivory or Dawn) Water

Mix the flour and soap together then add water until you have the consistency of sour cream.

Cover the stain area with the poultice so it's about 1/4" inch thick and overlaps the stain by about 1/4".

Cover with plastic wrap for 24 hours.

Wash off poultice and clean area with soap and water. If stain is still there, reapply poultice.

Rubbing Alcohol Stain Remover Spray

Pour 1/8 cup of rubbing alcohol into a 16 oz. spray bottle. Add a couple drops of liquid dish detergent then fill the bottle with water. Shake before use. Spray onto granite or marble stains and wash area clean.

Hydrogen Peroxide Pad: Used mostly to treat Food Stains. Be careful with this on dark colored stone, it "may" lighten the color a bit. Test a small area first. For hardened food stains, use hair-color grade hydrogen peroxide, but do not leave it on for too long.

Fold a wad of cotton gauze to approximately the size of your stain, saturate it with hydrogen peroxide and squeeze out excess (you want the wad to be wet but not dripping wet).

Apply the pad to the stained area then cover it with plastic wrap, tape around all edges of the plastic to seal the wad. Put a saucer or some object on top of the pad to add some weight/pressure to the stained area.

Leave this on the stain for 24 hours, check then reapply as needed.

Once the stain has disappeared, make sure you wipe the area clean with a damp cloth and then buff it dry.

Corn Starch: Its used mainly to treat Grease and oil stains.

Use a paper towel to mop up the excess from any spill that occurs and Spray stain lightly with distilled water. Then sprinkle a thick layer of corn starch over the stain. Leave for 24 hours or longer. Wipe up the stain gently with a soft, damp cloth and towel the area dry. Reapply if needed.

For grease splatters, sprinkle stained area immediately with corn starch and allow to sit for about 15 minutes. Wash area clean with mild soap and water, the corn starch should lift the grease effortlessly.

In general, A number of pH sealers are available on the market to ensure the protection of marble surfaces. However, these sealers must be reapplied depending on what kind of use the marble surface is put to. For marble floors, for example, you may need to reapply the sealer every six months, as for kitchen counters, while marble frames and furniture may endure a year without a reapplication of the sealer. The porous nature of marble makes sealers essential.

Do not walk on your marble floors before you have wiped your shoes thoroughly to rid the soles of all excess dirt and grime. Always place doormats at the doorways for this purpose. Also, never use acidic substances like vinegar and non-alkaline cleaners to remove stains from any marble surface. If you think the stain is proving too much for you, don't try homemade remedies that you aren't sure will work. Professional help is always at hand, and reputable cleaners will always make sure your marble is well protected.

Tips

Remember to cover your granite & marble tops regularly with a sealant to prevent staining from happening in the first place.

The quicker you wipe up and blot spills the easier it is to prevent or remove stains.

Before applying a method of stain treatment, do a test spot first to make sure the stone's color or finish won't be affected. These should be safe to use but better safe than sorry.

Before applying a treatment, examine the stain closely. If the stain is still there but is lighter or reduced, you know the treatment is working. Keep applying until the stain is completely gone.