

Stain removal on NATURAL STONE

The sensitivity of the stone to stains varies. The most important factors are stone type – whether the stone is granite, slate (silicate stone) or marble, limestone (carbonate stone) – and the stone's density. Color, texture, surface treatment and the condition of the stone also have an effect. Stain removal must be adapted to each situation. Some stones may be impregnated, ask the stone supplier! The advice below applies to untreated stone.

General information

Stains must be removed quickly to prevent them from spreading into the stone material. If the stain penetrates deeply, it can be very difficult or impossible to remove. It is also important to be careful, so as not to worsen the stain or damage the stone. First, choose simple methods over chemicals. The basic principle is based on the "paste method", where a dissolving liquid is combined with absorbent agents. See fact box.

First step: Try to soak up the stain with paper towels or absorbents. Then process with a damp cloth and water. Then a solution of water and detergent or neutral "Allrent" is used. Always work from the outside in towards the center of the stain to avoid spreading

the stain. If any kind of solvent is used, rinse thoroughly with water and neutral "Allrent" afterwards

Cement

Stains from hardened cement mortar are very difficult to remove. First of all, remove the mortar before it hardens. Granite/quartzite slate: Hardened cement stains can be removed with glycolic acid and a stiff brush or piece of wood. Do not use a wire brush! It can scratch and cause rust staining. Water before acid washing and rinse thoroughly with water.

NOTE: The grout is damaged by the acid.

Marble/limestone: If the stone has been ground or roughened, hardened cement stains can be carefully scraped off. The surface is then sanded by hand with fine water sanding paper, steel wool or nylon cloth to the surface finish of the surrounding stones. Tests should be done on a small area.

Polished surface is very difficult to restore with this method. Acids should not be used, they can cause corrosive damage and a greater impact than the stain entails.

Grease/oil

Grease/oil stains must be removed as quickly as possible to prevent grease/oil from penetrating the stone. The stains are wiped dry with paper and washed with solvent which is then absorbed by paper or absorbent. The solvent can be white spirit, thinner/cellulose thinner, acetone or unleaded motor petrol (95 octane). If the stain is deeper, the paste method is used (see fact box). Rinse with neutral all-clean in use solution.

Rubber heels

Black marks from rubber heels are washed off with thinner, white spirit or turpentine. Rinse with neutral all-purpose cleaner.

Glue

Adhesives can have different compositions that require different agents. Glue residues are washed away with thinner. Even oil-free acetone can be used with caution.

Marker pens

Use T red on a canvas. Thinner and acetone can also be tried with caution. If the stain has penetrated the stone, the paste method is used. Wash with neutral all-purpose cleaner.

Oil/varnish paint

Use thinner or turpentine in combination with paper and then in paste form. Post-washing with ammonia in water solution if necessary.

Plastic paint

Stains of plastic paint are very difficult to remove once they have hardened. They should be wiped off before curing in combination with water. Ev. hardened plastic paint stains are scraped off with a razor blade. If necessary, post-washing with a warm solution of caustic soda can be used. Rinse with water.

Rust

Rust stains are very difficult to remove, especially if they have been there for a long time.

Granite/Slate: Oxalic acid or cleaners containing this acid can be used. Wash well afterwards with a neutral all-clean solution.

Marble/limestone: One must consider the importance of the rust stain in relation to any corrosion damage that occurs when removing with oxalic acid.

Warning: Acids damage marble and limestone (polished and ground surfaces are etched by the acid). Use the acid with care and rinse well with neutral "Allrent" in working solution afterwards.

Stearic

Remove as much as possible mechanically by scraping gently with a razor blade or similar. Alternatively, freezing spray can be used. After-wash with unleaded motor petrol (95 octane), possibly in paste form. Wash with neutral all-purpose cleaner.

Tea

Granite/quartzite slate: Tea stains are difficult to remove.

First try with washing-up liquid or Allrent in use solution.

Remaining marks can be bleached with chlorine-type agents.

Marble/Limestone: Tea can cause discoloration, especially on light marble/limestone if the stain is not wiped up immediately. Try first with washing-up liquid or Allrent.

Discoloration can be bleached with chlorine, but keep in mind that the stone can be etched and bleached. Wash with neutral all-purpose cleaner.

Tape

Adhesive residues from tape are washed away with thinner/cellulose thinner. Acetone can also be tried.

Chewing gum

Scrape off or use freeze spray.

Urine

Wash clean with washing-up liquid or neutral all-purpose cleaning solution

Always follow the safety regulations for the chemicals used!

The pasta method

The method involves mixing the relevant solvent with an absorbent powder, e.g. chalk, bentonite clay or potato flour, into a paste. This is placed on the stain, which may first be moistened with the solvent. The paste is allowed to remain until it dries, after which it is brushed off and the surface is washed with water. Try on a small area first. If necessary, the treatment is repeated.

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