



Marble or Travertine Floor/Counter Tops

Your Marble floor looks **Dull**. Your Marble floor or counter tops **Not smooth** anymore.

How Did This Happen?

Historically, marble flooring has been associated with a sense of wealth. It is a material that has adorned the palaces of kings and queen. It can create a sense of sophistication. Once installed, the marble floor or counter tops looked wonderful, lustrous shine, depth of reflection and smooth to the touch and so pristine. Marble is an all natural material that is created by the earth. That means that it is eco friendly and bio degradable, and will not cause pollution at the end of its functional life.

Marble or travertine stone **contains natural crystals**. These crystals reflect light to provide shine on the surface. When these crystals turn dull, crushed or broken, they cannot reflect light evenly. The **damaged crystals** give your marble a **dull look**. Polished marble stone becomes dull when heavy foot traffic along with sediment erodes the crystals. The main enemy of stone crystal is a grit that, often, is harder than your stone. The damage to the crystals occurs when the pressure from the shoe forces the sediment to abrade or fracture the crystals. The bottoms of our shoes act like sandpaper on a stone floor surface, and over time, **will wear the polish off**.

The **only way to restore the shine** back onto your marble stone is **to sharpen the crystals** in the stone. This can only be done through honing and polishing using diamond abrasives and polish. The darker the color of the stone the more time it takes to polish it.

Other issues that negatively affect the stone are **etching**. Marble is a soft stone and because of it is very absorbent from acidic substances such as food, alcohols, perfumes and certain cleaning materials that contain acid. If the floor is not properly sealed, the floor can easily stain from spills. Once a stone becomes stained, it cannot be removed by the simple cleaning. Marble should be sealed with a quality sealer and maintained annually to maintain its shine.

Spalls & Flakes - spalling is the development of small pits or small pieces of stone that are popping off of the surface. This condition is common on stone exposed to large amounts of water. Like efflorescence, minerals in the water are the cause for spalling and pitting. Instead of the minerals depositing on the surface, they deposit below the surface of the stone. This causes pressure within the stone. Therefore, the stone spalls, flakes, or pits.

Cracks in Marble - settling, poor installation, and excessive vibration are the causes for cracks in stone tiles. Sometimes cracks can be repaired by using a color-matched polyester or epoxy filler. Before a crack is repaired, it is wise to find out how, and why, the crack occurred in the first place. Also, for you to know, because **marble contains** minerals, there's always the risk that its **iron** content will turn to **rust** in a bathroom. A beautiful installation can be ruined when the iron buried deep in the marble discolours from humidity and moisture.

Tips how **to keep** your marble floors and countertops to **shine** like in five star hotels:

- **Clean** spill immediately (blot the spills first, then use soft sponge, hot water and soap).
- **Dust** countertops and vacuum your marble floors regularly (once a week).
- **Avoid** using the cleansers that are acid based to prevent etching or damage to the sealer.
- **Don't use** vinegar, lemon or ammonia for cleaning marble surfaces.
- **Sealing & Polishing** annually will keep your floors in top condition and appearance.

Summary prepared by:

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