

DISCOLORATIONS & STAINS

ON NATURAL STONE

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DUE TO THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND THE DIVERSITY OF

color and texture, natural stone has been popular as a building material for centuries. To preserve stone's natural luster and to keep the color vibrant, however, it must be cared for properly. For example, if stone is not protected by an impregnator or a sealer, staining can occur. Once a stain permeates deeply into the stone, successful removal depends upon the usage of the correct product.

Discoloration of natural and artificial stones can be organic or inorganic in nature, depending upon whether the discoloration is caused by inclusions within the stone or from external contamination. Bellinzoni's MultiClean is a universal cleaner that will safely remove many kinds of contaminants such as; basic dirt, dirt layers, thin layers of wax, superficial oil and grease stains, soot, rubber and tar stains from all natural and artificial stone surfaces. Bellinzoni's Mangia Macchia is a pre-mixed poultice that will safely remove some common superficial stains from the surface of the stone. Stubborn stains, however, require more knowledge of both the cause of the contamination and the

type and finish of the stone in order to determine the correct product and procedure for safe removal without causing damage to the stone.

Natural stone can be hard or soft rock. Hard rocks include granite, gneiss, quartzite and porphyry. Soft rocks include sandstone as well as limestone such as marble (Thassos, Carrara, Estromoz, Palisandro, etc.), Jurassic Marble, Solnhofen Stone, travertine, Botticino and Trani. Cast stones consist of pieces of natural stone which are bound together by means of a synthetic resin or cement, such as agglomerate marble or granite (resin-bound) and terrazzo and concrete ashlar (cement-bound).

Limestone consists mainly of calcium carbonate. Marble or limestone is sensitive to acids. Cement-bound cast stones (concrete ashlar) are also acid-sensitive. It is extremely important to wipe wine or fruit juice spills off of these surfaces as quickly as possible to avoid staining. Acid cleaners will corrode or "etch" the stone's surface. Non-acid resistant surfaces and especially fine ground and polished surfaces require different products and treatments.

To remove inorganic discolorations, such as rust stains, it is imperative to first apply a test patch in an inconspicuous area to insure that the surface is acid-resistant. If the surface is acid-resistant, rust stains can be removed with Bellinzoni's Mangia Ruggine Powder.

Lime residues can be removed from acid-resistant surfaces with Bellinzoni's SB-58, an acid cleaner. Mortar, lime residue, efflorescence, cement films and other stubborn deposits on tiles, clinker, granite, brick and cotto slabs can be removed from acid resistant surfaces with Bellinzoni's Ceramic Tile Cleaner. Discolorations on acid-resistant areas with fine ground and polished surfaces can only be removed mechanically (grinding). The best prevention against staining and discolorations is a proper Care & Maintenance program designed for your natural stone.

THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN ANY PROGRAM IS TO INSURE THAT YOUR STONE IS PROTECTED WITH THE PROPER IMPREGNATION OR SEALING TO PREVENT STAINS FROM ABSORBING INTO THE STONE.

Use Bellinzoni's Stone Polish for everyday cleaning. Special high quality waxes designed specifically for natural stone adds an invisible layer of protection while bringing out the true natural luster of the stone.

