

Marble, Tile and Natural Stone Tips

Here are some tips concerning the taking care of your stone and marble work! Practicing these tips can assure that your stone and marble will last and retain its shine for an endless amount of years to come!

Tile and Natural Stone Tips

- 1 Use dirt trapping walk-off mats at all exterior doors to prevent dirt and sand (which can act like sandpaper) from entering your home.

Use area rugs on high traffic pathways and pivot areas: at ends of steps, near doorways, etc. All rugs should allow floors to breathe. Avoid rubber-backed or non-ventilated rugs.

Certain chemicals in stone oxidize in strong light causing the stone to change color. To avoid an uneven appearance, move area rugs occasionally.
- 2 Keep your natural Stone and Tile dust and dirt free. Dust, grit and dirt are the number one enemies for your floors polished finish, they can act like sandpaper underfoot.

Use a soft cloth or cloth mop, for dusting and cleaning your natural stone and tile floors.

Be careful when vacuuming as dirt can become embedded in the wheels of your vacuum and scratch your floors surface.

Never use a household dust treatment on your natural stone or tile floors as this may cause your floor to become slick or dull the finish.
- 3 Wipe up food or other spills immediately using a pH neutral alkaline cleaner. Acidic spills will mar surfaces quickly. Use cool, clean water and rinse thoroughly.

Never use vinegar, abrasive cleaners or harsh chemicals as these will mar the finish

Marble Beauty Tips

- Keep your Marble dust-free
- Ordinary dust particles will obscure the natural beauty and appearance of your marble or polished natural stone. Dry-dust surfaces regularly using a soft, non oily cloth or cloth mop.
- Clean your Marble carefully
- Wash Marble surfaces with cool, clean water. Mop with mild cleaning solution using short overlapping strokes. Rinse thoroughly with clear water to avoid streaks or soapy build-up.
- Use a separate mop
- It's best to use a clean mop on Marble or terrazzo floors, one that is free of harsh chemicals and abrasive cleaners.

of your floor.

Use a broom for dry spills and abrasives.

- 4** Always put felt protective pads on the legs of your furniture.

They allow the furniture to be moved easily without scratching or denting your floors finish and can also provide a sound deadening barrier.

Replace your felt pads often as dirt and grit can become embedded in them or as they become worn.

- 5** Get rid of your string mops! These drown the grout surfaces with dirty water and is unsanitary. Try using less water for daily care. Use a slightly damp mop to clean your hard surface floors.

Never add vinegar to cleaning solutions.

Allow floors to dry completely before opening it upto foot traffic.

- 6** Never place potted plants directly in contact with your hard surface flooring, even if they are placed in waterproof saucers. Condensation can develop under these saucers and damage your flooring.

To avoid this, place your plants on trivets or stands so that air can circulate underneath.

Do not place metal in direct contact with natural stone.

- 7** Keep high heels in good repair. Heels that have worn down or lost their protective cap exposing the steel support rod will dent and pit wood, fracture tiles or natural stone and perforate vinyl.

A person in stiletto heels weighing 125 lbs. exerts approximately 2000 lbs. of pressure per square inch!

Tend to spills immediately

Acidic spills will mar surfaces quickly. Sponge up spills from citrus juices, sodas, wine and alcohol using fresh, clean water. If necessary your regular marble cleanser may be used. Note: Wet marble can be very slippery.

Never add vinegar to cleaning solutions

Vinegar chemically reacts with the calcium carbonate in marble and strips the shine.

Permanently etching the surface. Use gentle, neutral cleaners.

Allow cleaned floors to air-dry completely

Foot traffic on wet marble can leave rings and tracks.

Keep metal and hot dishes off your marble

When moisture is present some metals particularly those with iron content will rust leaving unattractive stains. Use non-metal trivets or placemats to prevent burn marks, moisture or discoloration.

