

Dolomite (calcium-magnesium carbonate) sits between marble and quartzite in hardness. It is harder than marble and more scratch-resistant, but it is still *calcareous* — meaning it etches when exposed to acids. Some material sold as quartzite is actually dolomite, so always treat it as acid-sensitive until proven otherwise. The guidelines below protect the white-and-grey veining from etching and staining.

DAILY CARE

- **Wipe spills immediately** — citrus, wine, vinegar, tomato, and soda will etch dolomite within minutes. Blot, don't wipe.
- **Clean with a pH-neutral stone cleaner** and warm water. Avoid regular dish soap — surfactant film dulls the polish.
- **Use cutting boards.** Dolomite resists scratches better than marble but is not knife-proof.
- **Use coasters** under all glasses, particularly cocktails, citrus drinks, and red wine.
- **Use trivets** under hot cookware. Dolomite handles heat well but trapped moisture under a hot pan can leave a ring.

WHAT TO AVOID

- × Vinegar, lemon juice, citrus cleaners, or any acid-based cleaner — permanent etch.
- × Bathroom / grout / tub-and-tile cleaners — almost all are acidic.
- × Bleach in regular use; occasional dilute spot use is acceptable.
- × Abrasive pads, scouring powders, melamine "magic" sponges — they polish away the surface.
- × Sitting potted plants, cast-iron skillets, or rusting metal directly on the stone — staining and rings.

STAIN REMOVAL

Stain	Treatment
Etch marks (dull, rough patches)	Light: re-polish with marble polishing powder (works on dolomite). Deep: professional honing or wet diamond pad.
Organic (wine, coffee, tea, food)	12% hydrogen peroxide + a drop of ammonia poultice. Blot, rinse, re-seal.
Oil / grease	pH-neutral degreaser. Set stains: acetone or mineral spirits poultice with diatomaceous earth.
Rust	Non-acid rust remover formulated for stone. Never use phosphoric or hydrochloric rust products.
Ink / dye	Hydrogen peroxide poultice for light stains; bleach poultice on white dolomite only as a last resort.

Poultice method: Mix kaolin or diatomaceous earth with the appropriate cleaning agent into a thick paste. Apply ¼–½" over the stain, cover with plastic wrap, tape edges, let dry 24–48 hrs, scrape off and rinse with distilled water. Repeat as needed; etch from acidic poultices is possible — re-polish after.

SEALING

Dolomite is moderately porous and benefits from a high-quality **penetrating impregnating sealer**. Sealing protects against stains but does *not* prevent etching from acids — etching is a chemical reaction at the surface and only acid-avoidance prevents it.

STAIN-PROOF (Dry Treat) · Premium Impregnating Sealer

ISO Class 5 stain resistance, 15-year warranty. Highly recommended for white/light dolomites where stain visibility is highest. Will not yellow.

Re-seal: Every 10–15 years

Tenax · Proseal-P Premium Natural Effect Sealer

Penetrating impregnator that fills pores deeply with no surface film. UV-stable, food-safe. Does not alter dolomite's bright white tone.

Re-seal: Every 4–5 years

Do not use mineral oil, waxes, or topical "enhancers" on dolomite — they will yellow the stone and trap moisture.

HOW TO SEAL

1. Clean thoroughly with pH-neutral cleaner. Allow surface to dry fully (24–48 hrs).
2. Apply sealer with a soft cloth in an even, generous coat until the surface no longer absorbs.
3. Dwell 5–15 min per product directions, then buff off all excess with a dry cloth before it dries.
4. Apply a second coat after 10–15 min for maximum protection.
5. Allow 24 hrs before use. Full chemical bond develops over 3–4 weeks.
6. Annual test: water should bead on a clean, dry surface. If it soaks in within 5 minutes, re-seal.

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

- **Daily:** Wipe with pH-neutral cleaner.
- **Monthly:** In good light, look for new dull spots or etch marks. For small fresh etches, an at-home etch-removal pad (Tenax TeEtch, MB-11) is sold for homeowner use; for anything larger or persistent, call a stone professional.
- **Annually:** Water-bead test. Re-seal if absorbing.
- **Every 5–10 years:** Have polished dolomite professionally re-honed if etching has dulled large areas.