

**Marble** is a *metamorphic calcareous* stone — calcium carbonate recrystallized under heat and pressure. It is iconic for its veining and luminosity, and infamously sensitive to acids and scratches. A marble kitchen countertop will develop a *patina* of small etches with use; the guidelines below minimise damage and preserve the finish.

## DAILY CARE

- **Wipe spills the moment they happen** — citrus, wine, vinegar, tomato, and even sparkling water will etch marble in seconds. Blot, do not wipe across the stone.
- **Clean with a pH-neutral stone cleaner** only. Avoid household sprays, dish soap film, and "all-purpose" cleaners.
- **Use cutting boards always.** Marble is soft (Mohs ~3) and knives will leave permanent marks.
- **Use coasters** under every glass — even a sweating glass of ice water can leave a faint ring on polished marble.
- **Use trivets** under hot pans. Marble handles dry heat but trapped moisture will leave a ring.

## WHAT TO AVOID

- × Vinegar, lemon juice, citrus or wine spills, tomato sauce — etch instantly.
- × All bathroom / tub-and-tile / lime / soap-scum cleaners — acidic.
- × Bleach in regular use; occasional dilute use only.
- × Abrasive pads, scouring powders, melamine "magic" sponges — they polish off the surface.
- × Mineral oil, waxes, or topical sealers — yellow the stone, particularly on white Calacatta and Carrara varieties.

## STAIN REMOVAL

Stain	Treatment
Etch marks (dull rings, water spots)	Light: marble polishing powder (Tenax TeEtch, MB-11) buffed with a damp cloth. Deeper: wet diamond pads or professional honing.
Organic (wine, coffee, tea, food)	12% hydrogen peroxide + a drop of ammonia poultice. Effective on white marble; test on dark.
Oil / grease	pH-neutral degreaser. Set stains: poultice with acetone + diatomaceous earth.
Ink / dye	Hydrogen peroxide poultice on light marble; bleach poultice as last resort on white only.
Rust	Non-acid stone-safe rust remover only. <b>Never</b> use household rust removers.

**Poultice method:** Mix kaolin or diatomaceous earth with the appropriate cleaning agent into a thick paste. Apply ¼–½" thick, cover with plastic wrap, tape edges, dry 24–48 hrs, scrape and rinse with distilled water. Repeat if needed. Be aware: hydrogen peroxide can lighten darker marbles — test first.

## SEALING

Marble is moderately porous. A **penetrating impregnating sealer** reduces stain risk substantially but does *not* prevent etching — etching is a chemical reaction at the surface and only acid avoidance can prevent it. Re-seal more frequently in active kitchens.

### STAIN-PROOF (Dry Treat) · Premium Impregnating Sealer

ISO Class 5 stain resistance, 15-year warranty when applied per spec. Will not yellow Calacatta, Carrara, or other whites.

*Re-seal: Every 10–15 years*

### Tenax · Proseal-P Premium Natural Effect Sealer

Ultra-premium impregnator that does not alter color or leave a film. Food-safe. Excellent on patterned marble.

*Re-seal: Every 4–5 years*

### MB Stone Care · MB-4 Marble Sealer

Professional-grade water-based impregnator preferred by stone restoration trades. Easy for homeowner to apply.

*Re-seal: Every 1–3 years*

**Do not** apply mineral oil to marble — it will yellow the stone, particularly visible on white varieties.

## HOW TO SEAL

1. Clean thoroughly with pH-neutral cleaner. Allow 24 hrs to dry.
2. Apply impregnating sealer with a soft cloth in an even, generous coat until pores stop drinking.
3. Dwell 5–15 min, then buff off *all* excess with a dry cloth.
4. Apply a second coat after 10–15 min for porous marbles (Calacatta, Statuario, etc.).
5. Allow 24 hrs before use. Full bond develops over 3–4 weeks.
6. Quarterly test in active kitchens: water should bead on a clean surface. If it soaks in, re-seal.

## SEASONAL MAINTENANCE

- **Daily:** Wipe with pH-neutral cleaner; dry to prevent water spotting.
- **Monthly:** Spot any small fresh etches early. An at-home etch-removal pad (Tenax TeEtch, MB-11) is sold for homeowner use on light marks; for many marks at once or anything persistent, call a stone professional for a re-polish.
- **Annually:** Water-bead test; re-seal as needed.
- **Every 3–5 years:** Professional re-hone or re-polish if etching has dulled large areas.