

Dark polished marble etched?

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Hello, my daughter recently dropped a pitcher of white grape juice on my new floor. (ST. Laurent polished marble.) I cleaned it up immediately. I can still see the spill mark. It looks like a dull spot in the floor in the shape of the puddle. I am not sure if it is etched or what. I tried polishing it out but the polish wiped off when I clean the floor. Any suggestions on how to remove the large stain or what kind of stain it is? Thanks

Dear Ryan:

A stain "a real stain" is always darker than the stained material. If it is lighter, it's either a mark of corrosion created by an acid (etching), or a caustic mark created by a base (bleaching). There are no known exceptions to this rule. In the case of natural stone, bleaching can't occur, and therefore they are etch-marks all the time: plain and simple surface damages, like shallow chemical scratches.

"I am not sure if it is etched or what."

It is not what: it is etched! L

Since it is a surface damage you can't technically remove it; you have to repair it.

How?

If it were a small etch-mark I would suggest you to get a good quality Marble Polishing Powder like MB-11 (you already found that a so-called "marble polish" is only some sort of wax that does not actually polishes marble, right?... J), but since you're describing it as a large etch, I am hesitant, also considering how difficult Black St. Laurent is to polish. (No two marbles polish the same way, even with the same product.)

Your best bet is to hire a reputable stone restoration contractor.

Now, you'd better watch out! I consider stone refinishing as the very pinnacle of all the activities related to stone from a professional point of view. Unfortunately, there are a lot of quacks on the loose out there! You get one of those, and you may even have to kiss your stone bye-bye!

How could you tell a champ from a chomp? Could you trust the recommendation of your local stone distributor, or contractor, or your interior decorator? Hardly!

We have available a very comprehensive article on how to select a *bona fide* stone restoration contractor, which will give you all the intelligence you need to make a competent choice. It does carry a small price tag, and you can order it by logging on the Educational Literature section of our website at: <http://www.mbstone.com/literature/literature.htm>. It's available in pay-per-download format and I consider it a cheap "insurance premium" to pay when there are thousands of \$ involved! Not to mention the little and much needed support you'd be giving to the cause "YOUR cause, since every single penny of the cost of the article will be used to support it.

Also, will you please read and sign our **Statement of Purpose** at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/purpose.htm>? By spreading the word about this valuable site among your friend & family and the stone trades' people you've been dealing with you will be rendering everybody a valuable service!

Moreover, do take advantage of the plethora of FREE Helpful Hints available at: http://www.mbstone.com/HH_promo/helpful_hints.htm. They're on the house!

Thank you.

Ciao and good luck,

Maurizio Bertoli

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