

1x1 polished marble shower floor

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Recently had a polished bianca carrara shower installed. We have 1x1 polished carrara on the shower floor. After a few uses, the tiles and grout around the drain has darkened. Tile guy said this is normal. He says water will always get through the tile and the grout. I think he is blowing smoke up my you no what! If this is the case, how come the rest of the shower dries normal. Because of this, I have stopped using the shower to negate further issues. Builder not offering much help. Apparently underneath there is a waterproof membrane then cement on top. Then the thinset and tile was applied. Shower has not been sealed. The rest of the shower floors dries fine. We have hired a stone restoration person to restore the bathroom floor because of scratches after install and he recommended the we seal the shower which of course goes against your viewpoint. He did want someone to investigate the darkening around the drain beforehand. Even though surface is polished, he does take up water if left to sit. Further, there does not appear to be any crack grout. Your thoughts please! Thank you. Carla

Dear Carla:

• Tile guy said this is normal. He says water will always get through the tile and the grout. I think he is blowing smoke up my you no what! •

You think right. Water will not go through the marble, and if the grouting was done right, it will not go through the grout, either.

• If this is the case, how come the rest of the shower dries normal. •

One the mysteries of the faith: believe, don't ask questions and give me money, of course!... J

• Because of this, I have stopped using the shower to negate further issues. •

Good deal!

• Builder not offering much help. •

What a shocker!...

â€œ Apparently underneath there is a waterproof membrane then cement on top. â€•

I sure hope so!

â€œ Shower has not been sealed. â€•

Good deal!

â€œ We have hired a stone restoration person to restore the bathroom floor because of scratches after install and he recommended the we seal the shower which of course goes against your viewpoint. â€•

True. It does go against my viewpoint. However, it is not really a viewpoint. A viewpoint is someone's opinion, and I always try not to base my postings on my opinion. I'd rather go by science whenever possible. And science tells me (and anybody else who can or care to listen to it) that the possible problems that could arise from applying an impregnator to a stone installed in a wet environment (even my outstanding MB-4) outstrip the (dubious and unproven) benefits.

â€œ Further, there does not appear to be any crack grout. Your thoughts please! â€•

First, you remove all the grout from the floor, Second you let the marble squares dry completely. Third you make sure that they all have the proper slant toward the drain, and, if not, have them removed and then re-placed properly. Forth you will re-grout using color-matching (white in this case) latex-based siliconized caulking material, making sure that's pushed deep in between the squares. Water-proof, stain-less, mildew-resistant. What more can you ask from grout?! J

Do all that, and I can assure that your stone will never darken again.

Now remember, it's never too early to think about the proper maintenance of your stone. ***The issue of what you'll be doing day in and day out to your stone is â€œ as it should be intuitive â€œ vastly more important than its sealing*** (if and when possible and/or advisable) and it's all too often neglected. As you can tell by reading many of this site's postings, you're not likely to get good information about routine care from your dealer or installer. Don't become another statistic! By logging into the Helpful Hints section of our website at: http://www.mbstone.com/HH_promo/helpful_hints.htm , you will be able to get the short version of our maintenance guidelines at no charge. The full version of it â€œ a 7-page document considered by many as an industry benchmark â€œ is available in pay-per-download format in our Educational Literature section at: <http://www.mbstone.com/literature/literature.htm> .

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Thank you

Ciao and good luck,

Mauri zio Bertoli

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