

Bought a home with carrera marble kitchen counter tops...

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Never had nice counters and our new home has a large expanse of carerra marble and I need your help! The counters have no colored stains but are covered with water marks and a few "etched" type stains (one is from an over-ripe pineapple...my fault!). Should I let this top just be "itself" and love the marks of time and wear or should I seal it to take better care of it? If Yes to that, can I apply "Stonetech - Bullet Proof" sealer that was recommended by someone and do I need to prep first (aside from having it clean and dry)? Lastly, you recommend a pH neutral cleaner for marbles...how do you know if a cleaner is pH neutral when I go to the store? (By the way~ I love your sense of humor; and you are a patient man to answer SO many questions...) THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ~Stacey Grandy Clueless with Carerra

Dear Stacey:

Firstly, your "water marks" are etches themselves, just as those produced by the pineapple.

Second, if you have no real stain, what the heck do you want to apply an impregnator (a.k.a. sealer) to your stone for??... It will not stop etching from happening, that's for sure. It will not seal your stone, either: marble is dense to begin with and in its polished form does not absorb anything (including the impregnator) due to its increase surface tension.

What to do then?

Become Italian! (In your perception of what a marble countertop should be and how should be used.)

So, you start by giving up the shine altogether.

To do that, unless you want to hire a stone restoration contractor to hone your countertop for you, If you or any other member of your family are handy, you could do the job yourself by using good ol' (metal-grade) sandpaper with an orbital sander. Start with a 60 grit, and then you go on and finish at 240 grit. Work every grit of the sandpaper intensively - not just a few strokes.

Once you have your hone-finish, it would be advisable to apply a good-quality stone impregnator like MB-4, because the pores of the stone will be more opened on the surface than if it were polished.

As for routine cleaning, MB-5 is the best specialty cleaner that you can find on the market.

And if a few visible etch marks will bother you in the future, your orbital sander will always be available to come to the rescue!

May I ask you now to please read and e-sign our Statement of Purpose at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/purpose.htm>
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Ciao and good luck,

Maurizio Bertoli

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