Slate Floor

Authored by: Maurizio Bertoli [mail@mbstone.com]

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The house we recently bought was built in 1970, and has a black or dark gray slate tiled foyer. The tiles are in good shape (no breaks, but some light scratches and dull), but the grout has yellowed, is cracked throughout, and has broken out in places. The former owners were heavy smokers, and while I've removed most of the related damage from every other surface in the house, I'm not sure how to clean and restore the foyer floor. Is this a DIY job, and if so, how? If it needs a professional, would it be cheaper to remove the tile and retile, which we can do ourselves? Thanks / Mary

Dear Mary:

Well, one thing is for sure: that grout must be removed and the whole floor must be regrouted. Whether you can do that yourself or not, is only for you to know. After a couple of days from re-grouting, I would treat the entire floor with a good-quality stone color enhancer like MB-6. This will hide all scratches that you may have and give you a nice deep hue, without any sheen, and will make the floor easy to maintain.

May I ask you now to please read and e-sign our Statement of Purpose at: http://www.marblecleaning.org/purpose.htm? J

Ciao and good luck,

Maurizio Bertoli

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