

Limestone care

**Most internet advice
suggests scrubbing
it with bathroom
cleaners. These
methods etch
limestone
immediately and
permanently.**

SEDIMENTARY ROCK (CALCIUM CARBONATE) · STANDARD: NSI · 4 MIN READ

How to Clean Limestone: Science-Backed Protocol

Limestone is an anti-acid stone. Acidic cleaners etch it immediately and permanently.

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Limestone Care

ETCH PREVENTION AND PH-NEUTRAL CLEANING

Limestone is calcium carbonate, similar to fossilized shells. Acid exposure causes immediate surface loss called etching.

Prohibited methods include vinegar, lemon, bathroom cleaners, and acidic spills. This protocol keeps the surface intact with pH-neutral care and rapid spill response.

The science: the anti-acid stone

Fossilized calcium

Limestone is largely made of calcium carbonate from shells and coral, which dissolves on contact with acid.

Etching is surface loss

Etching looks like a dull white water spot but is actually dissolved stone. It cannot be cleaned off.

Part 1: Myth vs. Science

Myth #1: It is stone, so I can scrub it with bathroom cleaners.

Science: False. Most bathroom cleaners are acidic. They etch limestone immediately and permanently.

Myth #2: Vinegar is the best natural cleaner for floors.

Science: False. Vinegar is acetic acid. It can turn polished limestone matte within seconds.

Part 2: The Clean Era Protocol

Step A: The pH-neutral mandate

Agent: Specialized stone soap (pH 7).

Method: Damp mop only. Do not flood the floor.

Why: Limestone is porous and can absorb dirty water.

Step B: The acid watch

Rule: Wipe spills of wine, juice, or pet accidents immediately.

Correction: If etching occurs, it must be repolished by a stone restoration specialist.

Summary for your home

NEVER USE

Vinegar, lemon,
bathroom cleaners, or
acidic spills left to sit.

ALWAYS USE

pH-neutral stone soap
and a damp mop.

GOLDEN RULE

Etching is permanent.
Prevent it with rapid
spill response.

FAQ

Can I use vinegar on limestone floors?

No. Vinegar is acidic and will etch limestone immediately.

How do I fix etching?

Etching requires professional repolishing. It cannot be removed with cleaning.

How should I mop limestone?

Use a damp mop with pH-neutral stone soap and avoid flooding the surface.

Download the limestone protocol

Use the printable PDF to share with homeowners, housekeepers, or vendors.

Limestone Protocol (PDF)

pH-neutral cleaning, etch prevention, and spill response.

[Download PDF](#)

Clean Era standard

Clean Era uses manufacturer-compliant, science-backed protocols for porous natural stone.