

# Marble care

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and Colorado  
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METAMORPHIC ROCK (CALCIUM CARBONATE) ·

STANDARD: NATURAL STONE INSTITUTE · 5 MIN READ

# How to Clean White Marble: Science-Backed Protocol

Carrara, Calacatta, and Colorado marble are chemically soft and etch on contact with acids.

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## White Marble Care

ETCH PREVENTION AND STAIN-SAFE CARE

White marble is calcium carbonate, the same chemistry as an antacid. Acids dissolve the surface instantly.

Prohibited methods include vinegar, lemon, bathroom cleaners, bleach, and abrasive pads. This protocol focuses on pH-neutral cleaning and poultice stain removal.

# The science: why marble is soft

## Acid reaction

When acids touch calcium carbonate, they dissolve the surface. Etching is surface loss, not a stain.

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## Low hardness

Marble is softer than granite. Dust and crumbs act like sandpaper and can scratch the finish.

## Part 1: Myth vs. Science

### Myth #1: Use vinegar to shine the countertops.

**Science: False.** Vinegar is acetic acid. It dissolves the polish and leaves permanent dull spots.

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### Myth #2: Scrub stains with a green scrub pad.

**Science: False.** Abrasive pads are harder than marble and leave scratched areas that attract more dirt.

## Part 2: The Clean Era Protocol

### Step A: The pH-neutral rule

**Agent:** Dedicated stone cleaner or mild dish soap (pH 7).

**Method:** Spray and wipe with a soft microfiber cloth.

**Crucial:** Dry immediately to prevent mineral rings.

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### Step B: The poultice method (do not scrub)

**The fix:** Use a baking soda and water paste.

**Method:** Apply to the stain, cover with plastic wrap, tape edges, and wait 24 hours.

**Why:** The paste draws the stain out without damaging the surface.

## Summary for your home

### NEVER USE

Vinegar, lemon,  
bathroom cleaners,  
bleach, or abrasive  
pads.

### ALWAYS USE

pH-neutral cleaner,  
microfiber cloths, and  
poultice for stains.

### GOLDEN RULE

Etching is surface  
damage, not a stain. It  
cannot be cleaned off.

## Manufacturer verification data

### Vermont Danby

Warns against acidic liquids like vinegar and advises avoiding abrasive or scouring pads.

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### Chippewa Stone

Recommends the poultice method for organic stains and warns against bathroom cleaners.

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### Clean Era note

We follow the antacid rule: if it burns or bubbles, it never touches marble.

## FAQ

### Is etching permanent on marble?

Yes. Etching removes surface material and must be repolished by a professional.

### Can I use vinegar on marble?

No. Vinegar dissolves the surface and leaves dull spots.

### How do I remove stains?

Use a poultice paste and allow it to draw the stain out without scrubbing.

## Download the white marble protocol

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

### White Marble Protocol (PDF)

Etch prevention, stain-safe care, and pH-neutral cleaning.

[Download PDF](#)

## Clean Era standard

Clean Era uses manufacturer-compliant, science-backed protocols for delicate stone surfaces.