

My newly replaced crema marfil tiles don't match the surrounding ones —can I darken them?

Q. I have honed Crema Marfil flooring and relocated my sink, which required the plumber to destroy at least 4 tiles. I purchased tiles to replace the four, however, they are much lighter than what has already been installed. Is there any way i can discolor/darken the Crema Marfil so they don't stand out as much? They are already installed, but I haven't sealed them as yet, in the hope that whatever experiment I perform will seep into the pores of the marble. Please advise..

A. I completely understand your frustration. Unfortunately, the most effective way to achieve a consistent look is not by altering the new tiles to appear aged—but by restoring the older tiles to look new.

During the refinishing process, a stone restoration contractor hones the surface, removing a very thin layer of stone to reveal fresh, pristine material underneath. This allows the entire floor—new and old tiles alike—to be brought to a uniform appearance with the finish of your choice, whether that's satin-matte, semi-gloss, or a high polish.

It's perfectly reasonable to hope for a quick, inexpensive fix, but in our experience, attempting to artificially discolor or “age” new marble rarely yields satisfying results and often leads to more frustration.

If you don't already have a trusted stone restoration professional, we recommend visiting www.surfacecarepros.com and clicking on **Find a PRO** to connect with a qualified expert in your area.

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