

Will the whitened area on my quartzite go back to normal after using a poultice?

Q. I purchased an oil stain remover poultice and used it on my light, whitish-gray quartzite to remove a very faint oil ring. I only used the product on one section. Now, that area is white, almost bleached. From what I can tell, the stain is gone. I contacted the manufacturer of the poultice. They said it is a residual solvent and that the quartzite will take approximately 72 hours to return to its normal color. I am doubtful and looking for reassurance or tips in case it does not return to its normal color. Thank you in advance!

A. You're not alone in your concern. Natural stone like quartzite can sometimes react unpredictably to stain removers and poultices, especially on lighter-colored surfaces. What you're seeing is most likely temporary. It is caused by residual moisture or solvent still trapped in the stone. This is relatively common with poultices, which often leave the stone looking brighter or even chalky in contrast to untreated areas, particularly if applied unevenly or to a dry, absorbent stone.

The manufacturer's advice to wait 72 hours is reasonable. As the stone dries out fully, it typically returns to its natural tone. In the meantime, if you'd like to do something proactive, gently clean the area with a pH-neutral, stone-safe cleaner and let it air dry.

For the time being, try not to worry. This kind of discoloration is often temporary. If, after 72 hours, the spot still looks unusually light, it could be a sign that the poultice slightly altered the finish (such as by lightly etching or dulling a honed surface) or that the stone absorbed more than expected. In that case, a professional may be able to blend the area back in with a light refinishing or color-enhancing treatment.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR Fred Hueston is the Chief Technical Director at SurfaceCarePROS.com and Director at StoneForensics.com. He is also the author of [Stone and Tile Restoration: The Manual](#), a comprehensive online manual for stone and tile restoration contractors. [[Learn more about Fred.](#)]

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