

How can I reduce slipperiness on polished white marble tile?

Q. I have polished white marble that is too slippery for the floor. What is the best way to take away the polish? I have not laid the tile yet. We are planning to lay the floor ASAP.

A. The route you choose to take to make this floor more slip resistant should depend on your highest priority. You mentioned that you are planning to lay the floor ASAP, so we can safely assume that time is of the essence. With that in mind, we suggest you have the tile professionally honed. To find a vetted PRO in your area, visit www.surfacecarepros.com and click on **Find a PRO**. Provided an experienced PRO has availability, the work can be done quickly. The end result would be a clean, uniform look that is less reflective than a high polish but still preserves the elegance of polished marble.

If cost is the deciding factor, consider a slip-resistant coating or treatment. There are different types to choose from. For example, clear anti-slip coatings have fine particles for grip while also keeping most of the shine of the existing finish. Etching treatments microscopically roughen the surface for a longer lasting effect. Grit-enhanced sealers add very fine texture for traction but may dull the glossy finish.

Because these treatments affect the stone's surface chemistry and/or appearance, and since improper application can cause damage or uneven results, slip resistance treatments should always be done by a skilled professional. If you decide to go the route of coatings, keep in mind that slip resistance treatments wear down over time and need reapplication, especially in high-traffic areas.

For long-term results, mechanical finishes like honing or leathering are better than slip resistance treatments.

Whatever you choose, your PRO can help those who use this floor avoid slip-and-fall accidents. It's great that you're thinking ahead before the floor is installed and planning for a safe, beautiful space!

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