

## How to make DIY cleaner for my black limestone shower?

**Q.** We have a new home with black limestone in the master bathroom shower. I am looking to make a DIY cleaner for routine cleaning of the stone. Do you have a recipe or suggestion of products to use to make the cleaner?

**A.** DIY cleaners can be risky for natural stone because certain common ingredients can cause lasting damage. For example, acidic substances such as vinegar, lemon juice, or even low-pH solutions can lead to acid etch damage, that is, a chemical reaction that literally eats away at the surface of the stone. Etching may appear as dull spots, rings, or rough patches where the stone's finish is changed. Minor etch damage can sometimes be removed using DIY methods, but in many cases, especially when etching is caused by improper cleaners, the only way to restore the surface is through professional honing and polishing.

The most effective approach for you would be to use a high-quality, pH-neutral cleaner specifically labeled as safe for natural stone. A reputable stone restoration contractor can make more specific recommendations, based on your needs. To find a vetted PRO in your area, visit [www.surfacecarepros.com](http://www.surfacecarepros.com) and click on **Find a PRO**.

If you decide to make your own cleaner, be aware that certain ingredients, materials, and cleaning methods can permanently damage black limestone. Avoid anything with dyes or pigments, such as colored soaps, detergents, or pigmented essential oils. These substances can seep into the stone and cause stains that are difficult to remove. Steer clear of harsh scrub pads or gritty powders, which can physically erode the surface, dulling its finish. Also, skip incompatible cleaning agents that may leave behind a stubborn, hazy residue, diminishing the stone's natural beauty.

For more simple but important care instructions, download our free [Stone and Tile Care Guide](#). It would be wise to consult with a PRO about the best cleaning, sealing, and maintenance schedule for the black limestone shower in your new home.

By following expert guidance and sticking with proven, stone-safe products, you'll help ensure your black limestone retains its rich beauty and performance for many years to come.

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