

Why do yellow stains keep returning on newly installed Lasa White marble flooring?

Q. I installed Lasa White marble on my floor, and after about 15 days, yellow stains appeared across the entire surface. I used a stain remover, and the stains were removed, but they returned after two days. Please advise what I should do.

A. The fact that the stains reappear after being temporarily removed gives us important clues about what's happening. Possible causes of the yellow stains include trapped moisture, iron oxidation (rust), or improper mortar or adhesives. Let's look at each.

Lasa White marble is very sensitive. Moisture from the subfloor, screed, or adhesive can migrate upward, carrying impurities. This can cause yellow discoloration that reappears after cleaning. In addition, if no waterproofing or vapor barrier was used, ongoing moisture movement may continue feeding yellow stains.

Iron oxidation, or rust, is caused when natural iron deposits within the marble or in the bedding materials oxidize with moisture exposure, creating yellow or rust-like stains that return repeatedly.

Cement-based adhesives with high moisture content or impurities can cause staining in white marbles, especially if the stone wasn't fully dry at installation.

Improper cleaners fail to address the source of staining, so the discoloration resurfaces within days.

Regardless of the cause, this issue is almost certainly not a problem that can be resolved using DIY methods. The source of these yellow stains is likely below

or within the stone.

A qualified stone restoration professional can perform a variety of tests to accurately diagnose the cause or causes of the discoloration. To find a vetted PRO in your area, visit www.surfacecarepros.com and click on **Find a PRO**.

Your PRO can:

- Apply poultices or treatments designed for deep, recurring stains.
- Test moisture levels. If there are any ongoing sources of moisture present, they may be able to identify the source and extent of the problem, and determine the appropriate corrective action before further damage occurs.
- Advise whether drying time, specialized treatments, sealing, or partial removal and reinstallation is necessary.
- Prevent permanent damage caused by repeated use of inappropriate chemicals or DIY methods.

What should you do in the meantime? First, stop using stain removers or cleaners on the marble. You could run into all kinds of problems. For example, rust removers may cause etching which will require professional honing and polishing. Clay-based poultice powders can drive rust stains further into the stone or even cause new rust staining. Bleach can make rust stains worse.

You should also avoid sealing the stone until the root cause of the yellow discoloration is identified, because sealing can trap stains permanently.

Acting early with the right expertise gives you the best chance of restoring and protecting your Lasa White marble floor.

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