

How to remove rings on a Statuario quartz countertop?

Q. I have a new quartz countertop in a Statuario marble pattern - mostly white with gray veins. I'm getting rings. Is it from hard water or could something else be causing it? What is the best way to get them out?

A. In most cases, rings on quartz are not permanent damage and are usually caused by residue left on the surface rather than staining within the material. Quartz is nonporous, so it does not absorb liquids the way natural stone does. This means hard water minerals, soap residue, oils, or cleaners are much more likely to be sitting on the surface rather than penetrating into the countertop.

Hard water is a very common cause of these types of marks. Here's how it happens: water evaporates leaving behind mineral deposits that can form circular outlines, especially around glasses, cups, or near sinks. Soap, hand lotion, cooking oils, and even some cleaning products can combine with these minerals and make the rings more visible, particularly on glossy or light-colored quartz.

To remove these marks, start with the least aggressive cleaning method. Mix a few drops of mild dish soap with warm water and use a soft cloth or non-abrasive sponge to wash the area. Rinse thoroughly and dry the surface completely. Drying is important, because leftover water can leave new mineral residue behind.

If the rings remain, try using a cleaner specifically formulated for quartz or a 50/50 mix of white vinegar and water. Apply the cleaner briefly and then rinse and dry the quartz right away. Most quartz manufacturers allow short contact with diluted vinegar for mineral deposits, but avoid allowing it to sit for long periods.

Do not use abrasive powders, scouring pads, or Magic Erasers, as these can dull the finish over time.

For stubborn rings, a plastic scraper used gently at a low angle can help lift surface buildup without scratching. Follow up with cleaning and thorough drying.

If the marks do not improve at all with these DIY methods, there is a possibility they are not water rings but changes in surface sheen caused by heat, harsh cleaners, or abrasive contact. When an issue like this is cosmetic rather than a removable residue, you should contact the fabricator or manufacturer to discuss warranty coverage or professional polishing options. To find a vetted PRO in your area, visit www.surfacecarepros.com and click on **Find a PRO**.

Going forward, wipe up standing water, use coasters, and avoid harsh or abrasive cleaners. This will help prevent rings from reappearing.

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