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Stained

Wine stains after a night of fun with friends, magic marker “art”, rust from filing cabinets, or oil spots from a car, will make you shake your head in disappointment. Staining of concrete, tile and stone can cause headaches for property owners and restoration contractors alike. Materials like concrete, tile, and stone stain because they are porous. As we all know, porous materials will allow fluids to enter the material and become embedded below the surface. Honed and textured surfaces are usually more porous than polished surfaces, so they generally absorb more of the staining material. The longer the stain remains, the deeper it penetrates, and the more permanent the stain becomes. Certain chemical reactions can also permanently set a stain and this is one of the reasons it is advised to remove the stain as soon as possible.

Generally, stains can be classified into two types, organic and inorganic. Organic stains are caused by those materials which are derived from living organisms. Examples of organic stains include: foods, drinks, plants, and some dyes. Inorganic stains are those materials which are not derived from living organisms. These stains are usually mineral related such as rust or copper. Inorganic stains are mineral in nature, just like natural stone, tile, and concrete. Iron is a compound found naturally in stone, some tile and concrete and will oxidize and rust, causing the surface to turn yellow, brown, or red. It is important to note that if stains are caused by oxidization of iron, they may not be able to be removed.

To remove a stain, you have to reverse the stain process. In other words, you will need something that is more porous than the stained material to literally suck the stain back out and into the more porous material. This porous material is called a poultice. A poultice is an even more absorbent material applied to a surface to draw out a stain; however, a penetrated stain is very difficult to reabsorb, so something must be used to first loosen the stain. This loosening is accomplished by adding a chemical to the poultice that is appropriate for the type of stain. This is why stain identification is so important. A poultice can be paper or gel, but the most common type of poultices used today are powders. Some of the powders are very absorbent and are ideal for stain removing. Examples include, flour, chalk (whiting), and talc. Some typical paper poultices include cotton balls, gauze pads, and paper towels. Paper poultices work well for mild stains, and are easier to apply than powder poultices and are easier to remove. Gel poultices are usually thick chemical gels that are designed to be applied with powders or paper.

The most important thing to remember about stain removal is identifying exactly what the stain is. If the stain is unknown and you try and remove the stain, you may be using chemicals that will not work or set the stain and make it permanent. To help identify an unknown stain, look for color and consistency. If the stain has the same color and is spread entirely over the surface, it is likely caused by external staining materials. Also consider the location of the stain. Stains near the stove or refrigerator may have been caused by food or cooking oils. Another thing to look for is the pattern of the stain. A splashed pattern indicates a liquid stain, while a smudge may indicate something solid was dropped.

The removal of stains is not an exact science and it could take some experimenting to find the proper process to remove the stain. Be careful not to waste time and money trying to remove a stain, because sometimes stains are permanent and will never come out. It may be more cost effective and quicker to replace the stone or tile. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5 IFMA Luncheon	6 ACA Luncheon	7	8
9	10	11	12 AAFAME Luncheon IIASA Luncheon	13	14	15
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Events

February 5: IFMA Luncheon
February 6: ACA Luncheon
February 12: AAFAME Luncheon
February 12: IIASA Luncheon
February 19: SABOMA Luncheon
February 20: SAABE
February 20: CAMO Meeting
February 20: IREM
February 27: IWSA Luncheon

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