How to Remove a Rust Stain on Stone

Q. I randomly stumbled on your website. I have a quick question if you're willing to share advice. I have marble (or it's quartzite) in my bathroom, and somehow it's rusting where the faucet is. The stone is changing a rust color. I'm not sure how to remove the rust. Any advice?

A. Unless the source of the rust stain is removed, the problem may reappear after it has been resolved. The rust is likely coming from your plumbing. Call your plumber first, and then once the issue is resolved, see about removing the rust stain. If the rust stain is new, try applying a solution of rust remover and water. Mix into a slurry and lightly agitate the area with a soft bristle brush. Rinse with clean water. Caution: Rust removers may cause etching; be prepared to re-polish the stone. If stain is old and has penetrated into the stone, apply a poultice. Your poultice ingredients will be a rust remover and poultice powder, such as diatomaceous earth or flour. Caution: Do not use clay powders; use poultice powder. If these poultice ingredients do not lift the stain, try hydrofluoric acid and poultice powder. Caution: Never use bleach; it will only make stain worse. For further instructions, including a How-To video, visit https://surfacecarepros.com/stain-management-app/. If your top is etched during the stain removal process, your stone restoration contractor can hone and polish the top to restore the finish. If you do not have a stone restoration contractor, contact us to find a Certified SurpHaces PRO Partner near you.

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