

Should tile discolored by vinegar be resealed?

Q. I used vinegar to clean my shower tile. It is textured marble mesh mounted black and white mosaic tile. I didn't know I shouldn't use vinegar. Now they are discolored. Do I just need to re-seal it? Thank you!

A. The acid in the vinegar chemically reacted with the calcium carbonate in the stone, causing etch damage, which is something completely different from staining. If the stone were smooth, a qualified restoration contractor could hone the stone to remove the damage and polish to restore the finish, but this stone is textured, which complicates matters. Even a professional restoration contractor may have a hard time restoring your stone using polishing powders. It depends on the level of etch damage. The bottom line is that this is not a DIY job, and sealing the stone will not remove the discoloration. If you do not have a stone and tile restoration contractor, we can recommend a vetted, experienced contractor for you. Just fill out our [online contact form](#), and we will see if one of our PROS is in your area.

Online URL:

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