

Why You Should Not Reuse Poultice Powder

Reusing a poultice powder for stain removal is not advisable, and here's why.

Fred Hueston, Chief Technical Director of Surface Care Pros and Owner of Stone Forensics explains, “I would not recommend the reuse of poultice powder. Chemicals tend to lose their strength and may not store very well. I would always apply fresh poultice.”

Poultices are designed to absorb and draw out stains from stone, concrete, and other porous materials. When a poultice is applied to a surface, the staining agent wicks up as the moisture evaporates from the poultice. The powder that remains holds the stain. If you reuse this powder, it can potentially transfer that stain to the next surface, potentially causing the staining agents to be transferred from the powder into the new porous surface.

Another reason why you should not reuse poultice powder is that the chemicals used in poultices can lose their potency and effectiveness. Think about it. It's important to store chemicals in a cool, dry place. You should also keep them tightly sealed and protected from light, heat, and moisture. When

you create a poultice, you are removing the chemical from storage and exposing it to all kinds of new conditions.

Heat, moisture, light, and air can cause some chemicals degrade. All of these factors can be present as part of the poulticing process. For example, some poultice mixtures become warm with moisture and chemical reactions. Although it is recommended to allow a poultice to dry out naturally, sometimes in cold or humid conditions one might accelerate the dry time using a blow dryer.

Diatomaceous Earth, an Inexpensive Poultice Powder

If the reason one might be tempted to reuse poultice powder is cost, here's a tip from Hueston: "An excellent poultice powder is diatomaceous earth, commonly referred to as DE powder. DE powder can be purchased at a swimming pool supply store. It is a light white powder and is relatively inexpensive."

Diatomaceous earth is a great choice for use as a poultice powder for stain removal because it is inexpensive, but it is also a great poultice powder for other reasons. It has a porous structure that is highly absorbent, which is great for trapping and holding a stain. This silica-based material is non-toxic and non-reactive and won't cause any damage to the stained surface.

For more information, register to earn a [Stone Restoration Master Course Certificate](#). You'll learn how to restore natural stone floors, countertops, and walls, engineered stone, and granite floors, using the most efficient and effective restoration procedures. Also included in this program is the [Stain Care Pro](#) course with a one-year subscription to the Stain Care Pro app and [Understanding Sealers](#).

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