

Instructions for Hardrock Poulticing Powder SO4000 Series

Hardrock Poulticing Powder may be used to remove stains from marble, travertine, granite, terrazzo, limestone, and other masonry surfaces. On very old or deep stains, several treatments may be needed to maximum stain removal. We suggest that you try a small patch to test the result you will obtain.

The most important step in removing a stain is to first identify what caused it. The most common types of stains are as follows:

1. General dirt or yellowing from smoke or age.
2. Organic stains such as tea, coffee, fruit, flowers, and tobacco.
3. Oil based stains from grease, cooking oil, butter and salad dressing.
4. Biological stains from algae, moss, mildew, and lichens.
5. Metallic stains from iron (rust), copper, and bronze.

Each type of stain requires the use of a particular chemical or cleaning agent which will most effectively serve to dilute break down and dissolve the stain. Following is a general guide which will suggest cleaning agents for the more common types of stains:

STAIN TYPE	COLOR	Agent
General dirt	Light "dirty" yellow	Bleach
Organic	Light to dark brown or color of fruit	Hydrogen Peroxide
Organic/Flowers	Color of the flower	Hydrogen Peroxide (Plus 10 drops of Ammonia per cup of poultice powder)
Oil Based	Brown to yellow or "dark" shade	Acetone alone or 50/50 acetone and ammonia
Biological	Black	Bleach
Metallic/Iron	Brown/yellow "rust color"	Ammonium bi-fluoride
Metallic/Bronze/Copper	Green or brown	Ammonium chloride

NOTE: The Ammonium bi-fluoride used for rust stains may etch some stones which will require refinishing and polishing after. Always follow the manufacturer's safety recommendations for the agent being used.

APPLYING THE POULTICE:

1. Clean or strip the area to be poultice to remove any surface dirt, wax or sealers.
2. Wearing rubber gloves mix the poultice powder and the cleaning agent to form a paste about the consistency of peanut butter.
3. Moisten the area to be treated with some of the cleaning agent and then apply the poultice paste with a spatula to cover an area one or two inches larger than the stain. The paste should be ¼ to 2 inch thick.
4. Cover the area with plastic sheeting or film and seal the edges with masking tape.
5. Allow the poultice to stand 48 to 72 hours and then for all agents except acetone, remove the plastic/film. For acetone, cut a few slits in the plastic. Allow it to stand until the poultice is completely dry. This may take several days but is very critical because the stain is being drawn out as the poultice dries.
6. After it is dry, remove the poultice with a spatula and clean the area with fresh water to remove any residue. If the stain is gone, congratulations. If it is only lighter or less apparent, repeat the process. If the stain was not affected at all, more than likely, the wrong agent was used. Try again with the next likely cleaning agent.

Note: Some stains such as rust can be very "set in" and after three or four tries if you are not successful, it probably will not come out.

SAMPLE TESTING: Before using, always test each surface to be treated in a small inconspicuous area to insure the desired results will be achieved. Consult supplier for further information and precautions, including Material Safety Data Sheets.