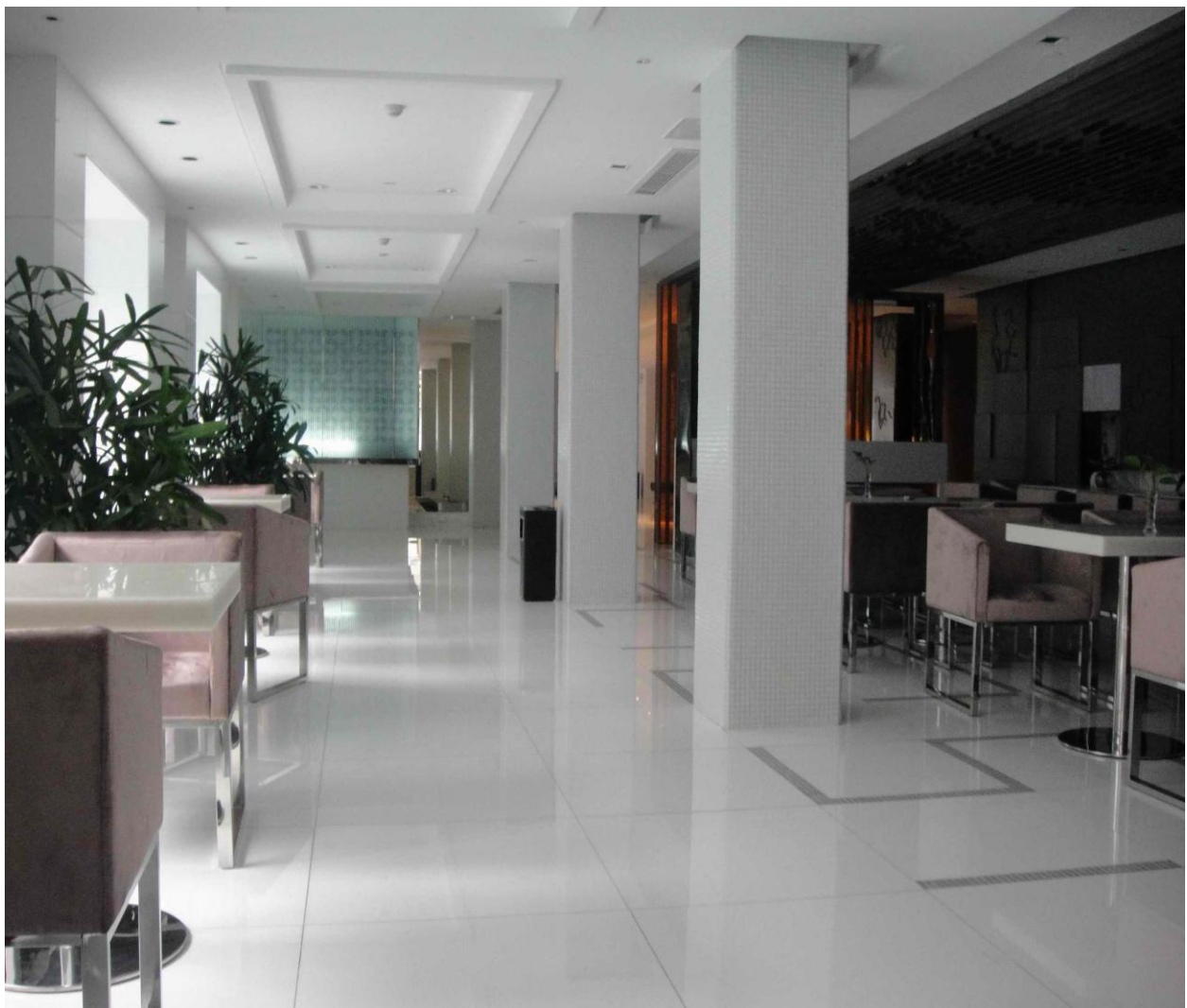


FIXING, POLISHING & MAINTENANCE OF WHITE MARBLE

R&D Division
RachTR Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.



Overview

White marble is classic, chic and luxurious natural Marble that makes your interiors appear soft, fresh and spacious. White marble is widely used for floors, walls, sink tops, kitchen countertops, outdoors, garden benches, patios, swimming pools, and even on roof tops. If you are looking for durable and elegant home interiors, white marble is an excellent choice because its warm, classic look is unparalleled to other Marbles and color ranges.

There are different types of white marble that exist around the world, each carrying different veins and patterns and color tones. These include White Thasos, Swiss White, Statuario, Australian White, Bianco Carrara and many others that give timeless and stunning appearance to your kitchen, bathroom and other living spaces.

Each type of white marble has its own special qualities and is graded for attributes like the whiteness of the background and the color and movement of the veins.

Pre- Fixing and Fixing Stage

White Marble & Marble are durable materials that will last a lifetime. However, if not installed correctly or properly cared for problems may result that will shorten its life. The following are the most common problems that may occur:

- Cracks
- Efflorescence
- Spalling, Chips and Holes
- Water Rings/Spots
- Yellowing/Oxidation/Mineral Stains
- Darkening of Joints

Majority of the problems can be traced to the presence of substances in the Marble itself which dissolve in alkali water rising from the substrate or laying bed (in the case of soluble salts) or which react with the water (mainly in the case of ferrous minerals).

However, with precautions before fixing of the Marble can prevent such problems to a very large extent:

With Conventional Cement Mortar Laying

Marble is sealed from back side, along with four sides by the impregnating sealer i.e. RachTR Back-Seal, which does not hamper the adhesion

Marble is laid after it is free from moisture

Marble is laid on a substrate which is sufficiently isolated from rising dampness from the ground

TECHNICAL CASE STUDY

TCS 01

info@rachtr.com

Marble is laid on a substrate which is with a negligible level of humidity while laying

To avoid darkening of joints, it is to be made sure that joining material should only be applied when Marble is completely dry. We recommend RachTR Epoxy 201 G for joints

Non Yellowing or UV resistant filling most preferably of Epoxy base should be used for filling pinholes and chippings i.e. RachTR 201 L(UV)

With Polymer Based Adhesive Mortar Laying

Marble is sealed from all five sides by the impregnating sealer i.e. RachTR Back Seal

Marble is laid after thorough cleaning and is free from moisture and sand or any loose particles

Marble is laid on a substrate which is sufficiently isolated from rising dampness from the ground

Marble is laid on a substrate which is with a negligible level of humidity while laying

Marble is fixed by adhesives which use very less or nil water for laying

To avoid darkening of joints, it is to be made sure that joining material should only be applied when Marble is completely clean & dry. We recommend RachTR Epoxy 201 G for joints along with RachTR Coloring Pigments to match the marble color

Non Yellowing or UV resistant filling most preferably of Epoxy base should be used for filling pinholes and chippings i.e. RachTR 201 L(UV)

Polishing and Finishing Stage

With ever increasing variety of white marble around the world it is important to understand the characteristics of the Marble as final look is dependent on the method used for polishing of surface. The most of critical step in marble fixing is polishing and it is important to follow precaution to avoid problems such as:

- a. Scratches / Deep Scratches
- b. Staining / Yellowing
- c. Fissures / Cracks / Pin Holes
- d. Dullness

The following are some of the steps which can be taken to avoid these problems:-

- Using Proper and good quality abrasives, machines and tools
- Use proper Epoxy filling system to fill cracks, fissures or pin holes
- Let the epoxy filling system to cure for its proper time i.e. 24 to 36 hours, depending upon weather conditions
- Use proper cleaning tools and chemicals

TECHNICAL CASE STUDY

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- Use pH neutral polishing powder i.e. **RachTR Pro-Shine+**
- Seal the Marble using anti stain impregnating sealers i.e. **RachTR Top-Seal** to avoid water and oil based stains.
- Dry the surface before wax based shiners i.e. and **RachTR Pro-Shine**
- Avoid using old steel wool pads for crystallizer/Shiner

Maintenance

Once the marble polishing is finished it is important to preserve its look. Over a period of time and depending on usage it is important use utmost care to prevent problems

- Scratches
- Etching
- Efflorescence
- Loss of Shine/Gloss
- Stains

Following are some of the steps to be taken for maintenance of the polished surface

- Wipe the surface immediately when any acidic or citric material is spilled on the surface
- Use soft cloth or designated cleaning tools for cleaning
- Use **RachTR Top-Seal** anti stain impregnating sealer to avoid water and oil based stains
- Use right, neutral cleaners for cleaning of surface i.e. **RachTR XC1**. Never use harsh cleaners which are highly acidic or highly alkaline
- Buff the surface on regular intervals