



## Scratch Removal

In this video we're going to cover removing individual scratches from natural stone surfaces. A lot of times scratches are caused from moving furniture or large pieces of debris getting dragged across the floor. For individual scratches it isn't necessary to use a floor machine and do the diamonds process over the entire area. But instead focus on specific areas that need the attention.

Here is a list of the equipment needed to complete the scratch removal process. A hand grinder; preferably a variable speed with a trigger instead of an off/on switch. Having a trigger operated machine makes controlling the speed that much easier. This becomes very important when dealing with honing or polishing powders.

A water source. This can be anything from a wattle bottle to a spray bottle. Something that is easily accessible, terry cloth towels or something similar that is absorbent. And a Shop-Vac or dry wet vacuum. This optional, but will make cleanup much easier. In this video we will be removing a scratch from a travertine floor. For demonstration purposes; we will only work on half of the scratch to follow our progress as we move through the process.

As a rule of thumb, any scratches that can be felt easily should be taken out with a 50 grit resin diamond. Scratches that can only be felt with the tip of a finger nail should be taken out with the 120 grit resin diamond. And the scratches that can be seen, but cannot be felt should be taken out with the 220 grit resin diamond.

Start by adding a little bit of water to the scratch using either a water bottle or spraying it with a spray bottle. Make note that the scratch will appear to disappear when it gets wet. It is important that you know exactly where the scratch was during this process. Using a wax pencil to mark the area may be beneficial to keeping track of the area needed to be worked on. Once the water has been added to the area, use a resin bond diamond and the hand grinder to essentially grind the scratch out. It is very important not to dig a hole or a "canal" in the floor during this process. Instead of holding the machine in one spot for too long, feather the scratch out by keeping the grinder constantly moving. To remove the scratch, the process is to bring the rest of the stone as low as the scratch is deep. Make about 4-6 passes, or cover the area about 4-6 times, to ensure that the scratch has been completely removed. Once the passes have been completed, wipe or extract the area clean and allow for it to completely dry. At this point, inspect the area carefully to make sure that the scratch is completely removed. If there are any traces of the scratch do a couple more passes until it's completely gone. After the area has completely dried, you're going to notice that the 50 grit resins are actually going to leave their own scratch patterns in the floor.

Next, move up to the next grit to remove the scratch patterns caused by the 50 grit diamonds. The next step in the scratch removal process is the 120 grit resin diamond. Start this grit in the same as the lower grit diamond. Only this time expand the work area by about a half inch on both sides. This will ensure that the damage caused by the previous diamond will be completely blended out. . Again, using a wax pencil to mark the work area will make this process more efficient. Add a little bit of water and work the area about 4-6 times to ensure a nice, uniform finish. Once the passes have been completed, wipe or extract the area clean and allow for it to completely dry. Once the area is completely dry, inspect it carefully to make sure that the previous scratch patterns are completely removed. In this shot you'll notice some areas that were missed with the 120 grit. We can tell these areas were missed because of the defined circular scratch patterns that left by the 50 grit diamond. To remove these, simply add more water and do a couple more passes. Once all of the previous scratch patterns have been removed, move on to our next grit, the 220 resin. Add a little bit of water and work the area about 4-6 times to ensure a uniform finish. Start this grit the same way as with the lower grit diamonds. As with the last grit, expand the work area by about a half inch on both sides. After completing the passes, wipe or extract the area clean and allow for it to completely dry. At this point there should be no traces of the scratch and there should be no scratch patterns left from the previous grit. In the video notice the part of the scratch that was not restored is still there and the other half has completely disappeared.

Continue this process until the floors have been brought up to the desired finish. A lot of times it is possible to successfully blend the area out to match the rest of the floor using only a hand grinder. There will, however, be some instances where the final step will have to be done over the entire room using either honing powders or polishing powders to blend in the repaired area. This will be done using a floor machine and not a hand grinder. To learn more about the Honing or polishing process, please refer to the honing and polishing videos included in this training series.

This concludes the scratch removal tutorial. Thank you very much for watching and we'll see you in the next video.