

**CLEANING SURFACE DIRT AND GRIME:** The quickest and simplest way of removing surface grime and finger marks is to rub the affected area with a pencil eraser. The pencil eraser will remove all but the most stubborn surface marks without affecting the surface of the plaster in any way. Once the surface is clean, re-wax and buff the new wax as required.

**GENERAL CLEANING:** Waxed Italian Polished Plaster may be also washed using liquid soap diluted in water. One may use a sponge or soft bristle brush. Lightly rinse with clean water to remove any soap residue and wipe dry immediately. The damp area will appear to be darker, but it will dry back to the original color. If scrubbing is necessary to remove some marks, the surface may require a fresh coat of wax to restore luster.

**CLEANING SCUFF MARKS:** If the surface of the plaster has been scuffed with a shoe or plastic item which can not be removed with a pencil eraser, try the following method. Take some high tack masking tape and press it firmly onto the affected area and then pull directly off. Repeat this process 2 or 3 times, or until the mark has been removed.

**STUBBORN MARKS:** If you are unable to remove any mark using a pencil rubber or masking tape, it may be necessary to lightly sand the surface in the affected area. Sand the surface lightly with 600 grit sandpaper followed by 1000 grit to finish. BUT, before you sand, observe the general direction of the pattern. Move the sand paper in a complimentary way to the pattern, not against it. Insure that the sanding is not too localized and try to avoid sanding too far into the surface as this will expose a greater amount of marble grain. Re-apply wax polish and buff up the surface.

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**REPAIRS (GENERAL)** Italian Polished Plaster is repairable to an extent; however the final success is greatly dependant upon the following factors:

- The size and shape of the damage. Always observe the overall pattern for direction and movement before starting any work.
- The depth of the impact or score. Damage that involves substrate repair as well as finish repair are more challenging.
- The color, texture and surface sheen of the wall to be repaired
- The skill of the repairer

Small chips, scratches and dents can generally be repaired with reasonable success, however perfect repairs can not be guaranteed.

Long and deep scores, large patches, in-filled plug sockets and large cracks are almost impossible to repair invisibly.

In many ways its repairability is similar to that of wood, in that small repairs are effective, but if you were to cut out a square from an oak door and then repair it with another piece of wood of identical color, it will always be visible.

**REPAIR OF SUBSTRATE (if required):** If the substrate is damaged, first patch the substrate in the normal manner required for the substrate. Remove Italian Polished Plaster material from the substrate around the damaged area a sufficient distance to enable good patching technique with substrate materials. After the substrate patch has cured, follow the Italian Polished Plaster patching instructions below. Be sure to have the substrate patch flush with the original substrate so that no “telegraphing” of substrate repair shows in the final finish.

**PATCHING OF ITALIAN POLISHED PLASTER:** Before starting the repair, stand back and observe the pattern or directionality of the Italian Polished Plaster material surrounding the area to be patched. Working the plaster in the same direction will help the patch to blend with the surrounding area. Lightly sand the Italian Polished Plaster area adjacent to damaged area, as well as the damaged area in order to remove surface wax. This will ensure a good bond of the patching material. With regular Italian Polished Plaster material in a natural settled condition, apply a small quantity to a plastic or metal trowel. Apply plaster material over the spot to be patched in the same manner as the original work was done. Make sure not to build the material too quickly; allow each coat to properly cure. Continue to apply plaster just as if it were a three coat installation. Work new material until the area to be patched is covered, including two or three inches around and outside of the patch perimeter. Do not fill just the damaged area only because it will “read” through the finish. At the edges of the patch, randomly apply fresh material over the original Italian Polished Plaster material, making sure to obscure the edge by using random and skipped trowel strokes. This will require that some new material be applied over the existing finish for some distance out from the patch. Polish with the trowel as you go. After drying, add wax and buff.

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