

# *Consumer Guide to Surface Refinishing*



**Miracle Method<sup>®</sup>**  
SURFACE REFINISHING

*Learn how refinishing can  
save you time and money!*

## DO IT RIGHT – CALL THE PROS AT MIRACLE METHOD!



For over three decades, Miracle Method has been transforming kitchen and bathroom surfaces from tired to inspired. Our level of experience and the quality of our surface applications simply cannot be matched. Along with our commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, it is why Miracle Method is the nation's #1 surface refinishing company!

This Consumer Guide will help you understand the benefits of having your bathroom and kitchen surfaces refinished rather than removed and replaced. You'll learn about the differences in processes, durability, cleaning and the latest trends.

We'd also like you to consider Miracle Method when you choose refinishing. We have 30 years of experience and it shows!

- ❖ The nation's most trusted name in kitchen and bath surface refinishing.
- ❖ Licensed and insured, our technicians are the best trained and most reliable in the industry.
- ❖ Only Miracle Method uses MM-4, a non-acid bonding agent to ensure the new finish will not peel!
- ❖ *And our work is guaranteed!*



**Miracle Method**<sup>®</sup>  
SURFACE REFINISHING

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## WHAT IS SURFACE REFINISHING?



Surface refinishing is a cost-effective makeover alternative to the removal and replacement of bathtubs, tile, vanities and kitchen countertops. Whether a surface is worn out, damaged, hard to clean, or simply the wrong color, Miracle Method has refinishing solutions to make it look and feel like new.

***Refinishing will  
save homeowners  
50-75% over  
replacement costs.***

Refinishing helps homeowners, hotels and property managers save thousands of dollars and avoid days or even weeks of messy demolition and costly replacement. The National Kitchen and Bath Association estimates the total cost to remove and replace a bathtub is \$3,000 or more. Miracle Method's bathtub refinishing can save up to 75% of total replacement cost!

Over thirty years ago Miracle Method pioneered the technology of surface refinishing and has continued to refine and improve the process ever since. New innovations have resulted in coatings that, when matched with our proprietary MM-4 bonding agent, create incredibly durable and beautiful finishes. In fact, most people cannot tell the difference between a Miracle Method refinished surface and a brand new one . . . the results are that good!

## WHY REFINISH?

### *Save Time and Money!*

Refinishing has bathtubs, tile walls, vanities, and kitchen countertops updated and looking like new in about 24 hours. Fixtures no longer need to be ripped out and replaced. Miracle Method can repair and restore these fixtures without removal. Refinishing will extend their life for 15 years or more!

Refinishing is attractive, durable and most of all extremely affordable!

#### **Cost and time comparisons for refinishing vs. replacing a typical five-foot bathtub:**

##### ❖ REFINISHING

\$450-\$575 *Total Refinishing Cost\**

*Time without tub: 24 hours*

##### ❖ REPLACEMENT

\$ 850 - Demolition, removal & disposal

\$ 350 - Cost of replacement tub

\$ 550 - Plumbing

\$ 650 - Tile setter

\$ 600 - Flooring, carpentry, caulking, etc.

\$3,000 *Total Replacement Cost*

*Time without tub: 7-10 days*

\*Actual price depends on size, condition and installation of tub.

## WHICH SURFACES CAN BE REFINISHED?

These surfaces can all be successfully repaired and refinished:

### Bathtubs, Showers & Sinks

- ❖ Porcelain on steel or cast iron
- ❖ Cultured marble
- ❖ Acrylic surfaces
- ❖ Antique clawfoot bathtubs

### Ceramic Tile

- ❖ Walls
- ❖ Tub surrounds
- ❖ Showers
- ❖ Floors

### Countertops & Vanities

- ❖ Formica® and other laminates
- ❖ Cultured marble
- ❖ Ceramic tile

### Fiberglass

- ❖ Showers pans
- ❖ Tub and shower units

### Additional Services

- ❖ Repair chips and scratches
- ❖ Add slip resistant surfaces
- ❖ Custom colors
- ❖ Convert tubs to showers



*It's an easy-on-the-environment way to add style to your home, apartments, hotels, or college dorms.*



### *It's a Green Alternative!*

Replacing bathtubs, tile and countertops means a lot of material gets thrown into a landfill near your home.

And there it sits – forever. Miracle Method's refinishing process produces very little waste. Refinishing also reduces the pollution created by manufacturing, transporting and installing new fixtures.

## HOW IS A BATHTUB REFINISHED?

A trained Miracle Method technician will thoroughly go over your fixture, assessing what needs to be done and confirming the scope of the work and the price.

❖ Your home comes first. On the day the work is to be done, you will be asked to remove all small portable items from the room. The Miracle Method professional will then mask and protect the work area with plastic sheeting, masking paper and tarps.

❖ The bathtub's surface will be chemically cleaned using a two-step process to remove soap film, oils and mineral deposits. Special sanding and abrasive procedures will be used to further ensure a thoroughly smooth and clean surface. Chips, scratches and other damaged areas will be repaired.



❖ MM-4, Miracle Method's proprietary bonding agent, will then be applied to chemically "bond" the new finish onto the old surface. MM-4 is available only to Miracle Method franchisees and is incredibly effective on "glass" surfaces like porcelain and ceramic tile. MM-4 has a proven 30-year track record; it provides superior adhesion and greater durability than any other material we have tested.

❖ After the tub is fully cleaned and bonded, a primer coat may be applied depending on the condition of the surface. Following the primer, up to four layers of an acrylic coating are applied using a fine-finish spray process.

❖ Finally the surface will be allowed to cure. This is usually an overnight process but can sometimes be completed in one day. While it is curing, it is important not to touch the surface. Keep pets, children and any other people out of the work area to avoid damaging the finish while it completely cures.



❖ Once the surface has cured, your Miracle Method technician will buff and polish the bathtub to deepen the gloss and remove finish imperfections. Very few other refinishers offer this critical service, even though it is the final step that makes your tub truly feel like new.

❖ The tub will be re-caulked and the protective masking removed from the work area.

❖ The technician will provide you with a written warranty and instructions on the care and cleaning of your newly refinished bathtub.

## Can Fiberglass, Cultured Marble And Acrylic Surfaces Be Refinished?

Fiberglass bathtubs and showers can become dull after only a few years, and worse yet can develop unsightly stress cracks or even structural cracks resulting in water leaks.



Fortunately, Miracle Method can repair the cracks, stop the leaks, restore or change the color and return your fiberglass tub and shower to its original beautiful appearance without removing the fixture. This is significant as many fiberglass tubs and showers are built into the structural framing, making them difficult and expensive to remove. After repairs are made and our refinishing process is complete, your fiberglass tub and shower will look better and be stronger than the day it was new.

Like fiberglass units, Miracle Method also has refinishing solutions for cultured marble and acrylic surfaces. Our refinishing process can make dated colors, swirls, cracks and scratches all disappear while saving you up to 75 percent over the cost of removal and replacement. All this is typically completed in just one day.

## What Colors Are Available?

While most tubs and sinks are refinished in white, bone or almond, Miracle Method also offers an unlimited number of custom colors. For tile surrounds, vanities and countertops, Miracle Method's Natural Accents™ stone-look finishes give a gorgeous, upgraded look. They are available in a variety of hues in either satin or gloss.



## How Durable Is Refinishing & How Long Will It Last?

Using the most technologically advanced coatings available, Miracle Method's proprietary process can extend the life of most bathroom fixtures for 15 years or more with normal care and cleaning. These advanced finishes are designed to stand up to daily use and require only the same care as prescribed by new bathtub manufacturers.

Refinished laminate, Corian® and cultured marble surfaces are water resistant and extremely durable. Unlike original surfaces, if accidentally damaged, a refinished surface can be color matched and repaired.

## Does Scientific Testing Support Refinishing?

Independent laboratory testing, conducted to demonstrate the adhesive power and durability of MM-4 versus other processes, proved MM-4 to have superior adhesion and longevity. Here are the results:

<b>Adhesion Process</b>	<b>Probable Life Expectancy at 40°C</b>
No Preparation of Surface	840 +/- 560 hours
Sanded Surface	1080 +/- 240 hours
Acid-Etched Surface	2880 +/- 680 hours
MM-4 Bonding Agent	Greater than 28,000 hours!

## WORN AND TIRED BATHTUBS AND TILE



### We Repair Any Damage Before We Refinish

All surfaces are cleaned using a two-step process to remove soap scum, dirt and body oils from the bathtub and tile. Chips and rough surfaces are filled and smoothed. Even rusted drains and overflows can be rebuilt. Loose grout is removed and filled for an even appearance.

### We Offer Like-New Durability And Appearance

Our unique MM-4 acid-free process creates a molecular bond with the old surface providing a strong foundation for the new surface. Once cured, the surface is buffed and polished giving the same silky, smooth touch of new porcelain.

## DON'T HAVE TO BE REPLACED!



### You Have Minimal Downtime

Unlike traditional removal and replacement remodeling that could have your bathroom torn up for weeks, your Miracle Method refinished bathtub and tile will be ready to use the next day.

### You Receive Quality And Value

Our extra preparation, use of the most advanced surface coatings and final detailing give you the most for your money. In addition, your refinished bathtub and tile are backed by a meaningful warranty; we do it right the first time!

Natural Accents™ CAN BRING AFFORDABLE BEAUTY



  
Natural Accents

Natural Accents™ The Look Of  
Natural Stone For Countertops,  
Vanities And Tile!

## Your Old Countertop And Vanities Don't Need To Be Replaced!

Worn and ugly countertops and vanities can be made to look like new without messy or expensive replacement. Burns, knife marks and chips can be repaired and Miracle Method will bring new life to your bathroom or kitchen.

## Add The Look Of Stone With A Natural Accents™ Finish

An affordable alternative to pricey Formica®, Corian® and other solid surfaces, Natural Accents' multi-color stone look offers a high-end makeover for any décor. The specks and flecks of different colors deliver a depth and character that you have to see to believe. The results are impressive and the beauty undeniable.

## So Affordable, You'll Have Money Left Over

Natural Accents can save you up to 50% over the cost of replacement. A sensibly priced alternative to laminates and expensive man made solid surfaces, refinishing with Natural Accents creates the look of expensive stone at a fraction of the cost.

## TO YOUR KITCHEN AND BATHROOM!



Choose refinishing and you eliminate contractors, plumbers, demolition, dumpsters, mess and time. A refinished countertop or vanity can be ready to use in as little as 48 hours.

### Refinishing Is Durable As Well As Beautiful

A Natural Accents™ refinished countertop or vanity is water, stain and burn resistant and as durable as new laminate surfaces. Unlike laminate or even man made surfaces, a Natural Accents surface can be repaired in the event of accidental damage.

Want to take your countertop upgrade to the next level? Miracle Method can even add a beautiful bull-nose profile to your square-edged countertop or vanity.

Our unique seven-step spray application gives you the most durable refinished surface possible... delivering a finish that is as long lasting as it is beautiful.

Natural Accents finishes are seamless, non-porous, impervious to water and are both heat and scratch resistant.



### Can A Peeling Tub Be Refinished Again?



Peeling or flaking is the result of adhesion failure caused by improper cleaning, poor preparation, or the use of acid etching in the refinishing process. The good news is that IT CAN BE FIXED!

The peeling surface must be completely stripped and then PROPERLY REFINISHED by Miracle Method. This stripping adds to the cost, but once redone by Miracle Method using its proprietary MM-4 bonding agent, the bathtub and tile will look like new again and receive a 5-year warranty.

### Is There An Odor?

The answer is yes, at least for a few hours. The Miracle Method technician will protect and exhaust the work area to minimize any odor. Just like the lingering smell of new carpet or a freshly painted room, the smell from refinishing dissipates very quickly.

### Is There A Solution For Leaking Shower Pans?

Miracle Method has a repair process that cures underwater, eliminating the need for messy and costly removal and replacement of leaking shower pans. It is the ideal solution to stop leaks permanently and it works on large tile and even terrazzo shower pans.



The first step is to clean the surface then apply a sealant. After curing for 12-24 hours the water will have been displaced by the sealant and a slip resistant surface is applied. The next step is to refinish the sealed tile using one of Miracle Method's Natural

Accents™ stone-look finishes. The result is a non-leaking shower pan with a beautiful, extremely durable finish.

## DON' T MAKE THESE MISTAKES . . .

### Why Miracle Method Doesn't Acid Etch!

Most bathtub refinishers use hydrofluoric acid to chemically etch a porcelain surface to accept new coatings. It is old technology and is extremely dangerous even when diluted. In its pure form, a hydrofluoric acid burn covering less than 2 percent of the human body can be deadly.

Instead of hydrofluoric acid, Miracle Method uses MM-4, a proprietary NON-ACID bonding agent to ensure that the new coating will adhere to the surface. **MM-4 has proven to be far superior to etching acids and also accommodates the “flex” that occurs in the bottom of steel and fiberglass bathtubs.**

Unlike etching acids, MM-4 is safe on all surfaces, safe for the technician doing the work and safe for your home.

*Miracle Method  
will not bring  
harmful acids  
into your home.*

Should you choose to have refinishing work done using the acid etching process, be sure the technician is covered by workers' compensation and not your homeowner's policy! Also, demand that the acid be properly neutralized, because hydrofluoric acid, if washed down a drain, can be corrosive to pipes and can damage the environment.

With MM-4, Miracle Method's smooth, hard finish will not peel and will look like new for years to come! It's why Miracle Method can offer a meaningful warranty.

Miracle Method's MM-4 process remains the most advanced and proven bonding method available today and is safe and effective on all surfaces. Miracle Method regularly tests MM-4 against “copy cat” products and has yet to find a better bonding process.

## Tub Liners Are Just A Cover-up!

Tub liners are molded plastic or acrylic covers that are placed over existing bathtubs. They are marketed as an alternative to replacement, however, there are several distinct advantages to surface refinishing over liner installation. Before you sign a contract for a tub liner, please consider the possible consequences.

Although liners are sealed, water often seeps between the liner and the tub. This creates a squishy feel and the accumulated water becomes stagnant causing odor problems, mold and mildew.



Liners are manufactured and need to match the measurements of your bathtub exactly. Liners that do not fit properly will flex over time, eventually crack, and allow water to get between the liner and tub. Again, the results are a squishy bottom and mold buildup.

Although advertised as cheaper than a new bathtub, it is not unusual for a liner installation to exceed \$3000 when wall systems and soap dishes are included. The added thickness of the liner may mean the drain and overflow will need to be extended, requiring the additional expense of a licensed plumber before installation of the liner can even begin.

The average price for a professionally refinished bathtub is approximately \$450-\$575; the cost of a bathtub liner is about \$800-\$1000. Prices vary by area of the country and individual installation.

Most liners are glued to the tub during installation. This presents a problem when the liner goes bad and needs to be extracted. Liners must be cut out and removed in pieces. After removal, Miracle Method can successfully refinish a bathtub and tile surround.

## Refinishing Is NOT A Do-It-Yourself Project!

While there are products on the market that will allow you to “paint” your tub or tile yourself, be advised that 25 percent or more of the work performed by Miracle Method is to re-do failed work performed by other refinishers or surfaces “refinished” by do-it-yourselfers.

*25% of the work performed by Miracle Method is re-doing a DIY job!*

We do not recommend DIY kits because:

- ❖ The results do not last.
- ❖ They offer limited colors.
- ❖ Many include epoxy coatings that tend to yellow and peel over time.

Refinishing your own bathtub would be like spray-painting your own car; the color may be changed, but the result won't look as good or last as long compared to a professional job. Most remodeling consultants recommend leaving surface refinishing to a professional refinisher.

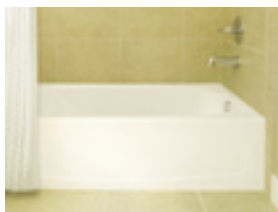


“*We're glad we called in the professionals. We saved thousands and we love the look!*”

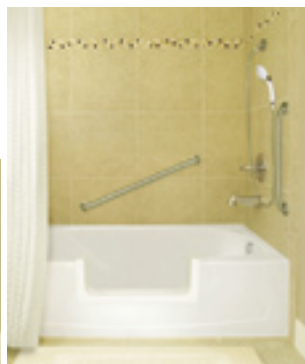
MAKE LIFE BETTER . . .

## Turn Your Bathtub Into A Walk-in Shower With Easy Step™!

No room poses a bigger threat to safety for the elderly than the bathroom. Slip and fall accidents when entering and exiting the bathtub or shower contribute to nearly 25 percent of hospital admissions for people age 65 and older.



Before



After

The Easy Step™ bathtub-to-shower conversion is an affordable solution to make bathing safer for elderly or physically impaired people. By creating a 24-inch wide by 9-inch tall notch in the side of the tub, entry and exit is made easier and safer.

The conversion can be completed in just one day on existing

steel, cast iron, fiberglass or acrylic bathtubs, and the price is a fraction of the cost of a walk-in tub or a bathroom remodel.



*“Easy Step has allowed us to stay in our own home!”*

Caregivers recommend Easy Step for both in-home and assisted living facilities.

For additional safety and convenience, a Miracle Method technician can install grab bars and add a slip resistant surface. He can also repair and refinish your bathtub — on the same day as your Easy Step installation. With Miracle Method you won't have to deal with multiple contractors.

Should the need arise to return the Easy Step to a conventional bathtub, simply save the tub's original side piece and Miracle Method can reverse the conversion.

## Can Clawfoot Tubs And Pedestal Sinks Be Refinished?

The look of yesteryear for bathrooms is back in style. Clawfoot bathtubs and pedestal sinks add a distinctive designer look for many homes. Miracle Method has been a leader in the restoration of these priceless bathroom fixtures for over 30 years. Contact your local Miracle Method franchise to have your tub or sink restored.

If you do not own an antique fixture but want one, contact your local Miracle Method office. Many carry an assortment of un-refinished bathtubs and pedestal sinks and can refinish the fixture in your choice of colors. They can also assist you with replacement of plumbing hardware and claw feet. Visit our website, [www.miraclemethod.com/forSale](http://www.miraclemethod.com/forSale), for a listing of fully restored clawfoot tubs and sinks available for immediate purchase.



## HOW TO PROPERLY CLEAN A REFINISHED SURFACE

Once your bathtub or countertop is refinished and looking new, you'll want to



keep it that way. Use only non-abrasive, liquid cleansers on your Miracle Method refinished surface. Spray cleansers, such as Formula 409®, Fantastik® or Simple Green® are good choices.



Miracle Method offers Mira-Clean™, designed specifically to clean refinished surfaces. You may purchase Mira-Clean from your local Miracle Method franchise.



Like Kohler®, American Standard and other bathtub manufacturers we **DO NOT RECOMMEND THE USE OF:**

- ❖ Scouring powders
- ❖ Bleach
- ❖ Chlorine
- ❖ Abrasive pads
- ❖ Acid cleaners

Beware of refinishing companies who require you to use only their cleaning products in order to maintain your warranty. This is usually a gimmick designed to allow the company to get out of the warranty when the refinishing job fails. A properly refinished surface should stand up to non-abrasive cleaners such as those mentioned above.

## HOW GOOD IS A WARRANTY?

A warranty is only as good as the craftsman who does the work. If refinishing is not done correctly with the right process and materials, the finish can peel or flake off and you will have a bigger mess than when you started!

Each Miracle Method franchise offers a five-year warranty against peeling and failure of adhesion for porcelain, tile and fiberglass surfaces. As with any home improvement service, read the warranty before starting the project.



Be wary of unlimited or lifetime warranties or warranties of longer than five years. They may be a sales gimmick. Warranties that are void if you fail to use the company's own cleaning products are also suspect.

At the conclusion of a Miracle Method job, the technician will leave a written warranty along with care and cleaning instructions, a discount coupon for future work and a referral discount coupon for friends and family.



*“The transformation of my countertop was amazing, and the work was guaranteed!”*

Surface peeling or flaking are indications of a problem with a poorly refinished surface and should be covered by a legitimate warranty. Should you have a tub refinished by another company that shows signs of obvious peeling or flaking, Miracle Method can redo it and make it look like new again.

## HIRING A QUALITY SURFACE REFINISHING COMPANY

The key to finding the right surface refinishing company is to do your homework. Quality refinishing is a craft that requires the proper materials, extensive training and the proper technique in order to provide consistent, high quality results.

To find the right refinishing company to work in your home, apartment complex or hotel, ask questions:



- ❖ Is the company licensed and insured?
- ❖ Do they have the required contractor's licenses?
- ❖ How long has the company been in business?
- ❖ Do they provide free estimates and explanations of their services?
- ❖ Do they use corrosive acids in their process?
- ❖ Do they offer a written warranty?
- ❖ Are they members of the Better Business Bureau?

Also, ask for their references and read their online reviews.

*You want only licensed and insured professionals working in your home!*

To see personal reviews of Miracle Method work, visit [www.ratepoint.com/seereviews/2340](http://www.ratepoint.com/seereviews/2340)



**Miracle Method**<sup>®</sup>  
SURFACE REFINISHING

## WORDS FROM MIRACLE METHOD CUSTOMERS

*“We loved everything about the house we wanted to buy but its 70’s colors in the bathroom. Miracle Method created an amazing transformation. We’re glad we chose Miracle Method over remodeling. We saved thousands!”*

— S. Walters, Denver, CO

*“We wanted to replace our Formica® countertops with granite but just couldn’t afford it. We chose Miracle Method’s Natural Accents and were amazed at the look, durability and price. Our refinished kitchen countertops are just gorgeous!”*

— D. Cutler, Tempe, AZ

*“What a great solution for updating existing fixtures that still have useable life remaining. I could not be more pleased with our refinished bathtub. Great job and great service!”*

— M. Tarantino, Charlotte, NC

*“I thought we would have to replace our cracked fiberglass tub and shower until I heard about Miracle Method. The crack is gone and so is the ugly aqua color. Miracle Method saved me \$1500!”*

— H. Collins, San Francisco, CA

*“My Do-It-Yourself job turned out to be a disaster. The finish I applied started peeling in just three months. Miracle Method removed the disgusting surface and refinished it the right way. It looks soooo much better than what I did!”*

— K. Weaver, Corpus Christi, TX

*“WOW!!! My old ugly kitchen farmhouse sink now looks BEAUTIFUL! I wanted to replace it, but the cost stopped me. Miracle Method is the way to go. I have a brand new refinished sink at 1/2 the cost of purchasing a new sink.*

— J. Rush, Virginia Beach, VA

Log on to <http://www.miraclemethod.com/testimonials.htm> to read what others have to say about refinishing and Miracle Method.



Miracle Method®  
SURFACE REFINISHING

The Preferred Refinisher since 1979

1-888-271-7690

See our work at

[www.miraclemethod.com](http://www.miraclemethod.com)

Each Miracle Method franchise is an independently  
owned and operated contractor.