

Routine Care For Your Tile

Ceramic tile is one of the most durable and maintenance friendly surfaces you can choose for your walls, floors, countertops, etc. With proper care & minimum maintenance, it will retain its original beauty and luster for many years. Generally, all that is necessary to keep your tile looking as good as new is a quick wipe with a clean damp cloth or mop. Prompt cleanup of spills and regular cleaning will keep your ceramic tile surfaces looking their best.

General cleaning.

Remember that you should sweep or vacuum floor areas prior to cleaning with other products. In some cases, regular sweeping may be all that is required for general cleaning as it loosens and removes most dirt and debris. A vacuum cleaner may be used for sweeping, but make sure you use one without a beater bar to avoid dulling and scratching the tiles. Vacuum cleaner attachments are excellent for picking up loose dirt along edges or in between tiles.

Glazed tile products should be cleaned routinely with an all-purpose, low VOC household or commercial cleaner. Follow the cleaner manufacturers directions. The entire area should be cleaned and scrubbed with cleaner solution through the use of a cotton mop, cloth, sponge, or non-metallic brush. The entire area should be rinsed with clean water to remove any cleaning solution residue. Routine cleaners should never contain hazardous or polluting products including, but not limited to acids or ammonia. Acids can damage the grout and the glazed surface of the tile, and ammonia can discolor the grout.

Mats

Use doormats to keep dirt being from coming into your home, business or installation. And shake them out often. This will reduce the amount of dirt being tracked across your ceramic tile floor, and will reduce the wear to the finished surface.

Heavy Cleaning

Mild scrubbing with a soft brush or electric polisher/scrubber may be required for textured tiles. Be sure to consult the cleaning product's instructions to ensure the product is recommended for your type of tile. After cleaning with an all-purpose, low VOC household or commercial cleaner, rinse thoroughly with clean, warm water to remove leftover residue. If necessary, wipe the tile dry with a clean towel to remove any film.

New installations

Immediately after tile has been properly installed and grouted, the new installation should be covered with brown paper to protect it from debris during the remaining construction process. The grout joints should be dampened daily with clear water using a clean sponge or mop during the first 7 days. This procedure facilitates the grout cure and color lock. The paper will allow for two important things: (1) to protect the newly installed tile grout and (2) to allow moisture to escape from the grout as it cures further protecting the look and utility of the floor. This is an important step in achieving color consistency. Never use plastic or non-absorbent materials to protect freshly installed tile. These types of non-absorbent products will trap moisture causing the grout to discolor during the curing

period. The protective brown paper should remain until construction is complete and the floor is opened for intended (post-construction) use.

Dos and Don'ts

Do clean up spills as quickly as possible so your grout won't become stained.

Do use an all-purpose, low VOC household or commercial cleaner

Don't use steel wool, scouring powders, or other abrasives that can scratch the finish of your ceramic tile.

Do remember that while ceramic tile is very durable, it's not indestructible and may crack or chip under extreme force.

Don't use bleach or ammonia-based cleaners — these products can discolor your grout if used too often.

Do take the proper precautions when moving heavy objects across a ceramic tile floor.

Do cover furniture and table legs with protectors to guard your floor against scratching.

Do remember that if a repair is necessary, the replacement product may be a slightly different dye lot and/or texture than the original tile, however, with time and usage, the replacement tile will blend in with its neighbors.