



The beauty of tile is not only in the unlimited design and aesthetic possibilities, but also in its durability and overall ease of maintenance. With little more than a few simple steps and using the mildest of products, your tile will stand the test of time and look great for years to come.

INITIAL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

The tile contractor is responsible for the complete removal of grout, mortar, adhesives, and construction debris after the installation of the tiles. Grout manufacturers print detailed instructions for proper mixing, curing, and cleaning of grout on each container. It is always advised that these directions are strictly followed without deviation. In most cases, tiles can be cleaned successfully, by scrubbing the tiles with hot water and mild detergents. A thorough rinsing with warm water and subsequent removal of the dirty solution, completes the cleaning. If grout residue or other remnants still remain, a more aggressive approach should be utilized.

PROPER CARE DURING CONSTRUCTION

Tile products are considered finish materials and should not be installed until heavy construction is completed. Once all tile work is complete, a protective cover should be placed over the tiled surface. Acceptable products include kraft paper, masonite, cardboard, and plywood. Never use plastic or polyethylene membranes, as these adversely affect the curing process of the grout.

GLAZED WALL TILES

For routine cleaning, a periodic wipe down - using a cloth, towel, or sponge dampened with non-abrasive, mild cleaners is the best way to go. Due to the near impenetrable glazes on most glazed tiles, the presence of dirt, external chemicals, oil, food agents, and debris can be simply wiped off. Please note, this does not mean that glazed tiles are self-cleaning. Your company's operations and maintenance manual should still qualify the frequency of cleaning.

GLASS TILES

For routine cleaning, use only neutral non-abrasive cleaning products. In most cases, standard glass cleaners are safe and effective. The use of detergents and abrasive cleaning agents may cause surface damage that may be irreversible. An untreated paper towel or micro-fiber cloth yields best results during cleaning.

POLISHED PORCELAIN TILES (ROUTINE CLEANING)

- Sweep or vacuum the floor of all loose dirt and other foreign materials.
- Polished surfaces require less detergents and cleaning agents. Mop the area with a mild, neutral cleaning solution.
- Once complete, rinse the entire area with clean, warm water.
- For best results, drying with a dry soft pad or cloth will increase the surface shine, and further help to prevent water stains.

**Polished porcelain should receive a penetrating sealer to protect the surface. Consult with the sealer manufacturer for frequency of application.*

UNPOLISHED PORCELAIN TILES AND QUARRY TILES (ROUTINE CLEANING)

- Sweep or vacuum the floor of all loose dirt and other foreign materials.
- Saturate the floor with a mild, neutral cleaning solution. For best results, use hot water, and allow the solution to dwell per the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Using a floor scrubbing machine (equipped with a nylon pad) or a deck brush with stiff bristles to scrub and agitate the surface.
- Rinse the surface with clean water to remove the dirty detergent solution.
- Buff with a dry mop or towel.

TEXTURED OR ABRASIVE PORCELAIN AND QUARRY TILES (ROUTINE CLEANING)

- Sweep or vacuum the floor of all loose dirt and other foreign materials. For sweeping, use a soft-bristled broom and sweep in two directions. First, follow the grains/direction of the tile, then sweep diagonally to maximize the removal of the foreign contaminants.
- Saturate the floor with a mild, neutral cleaning solution. For best results, use hot water, and allow the solution to dwell per the manufacturer's recommendations. This waiting period properly allows for the cleaning solution to microscopically break down the foreign contaminants.
- Using a floor scrubbing machine (equipped with a nylon pad) or a deck brush with stiff bristles to scrub and agitate the surface. If using a deck brush, use the same "multi-directional method" as noted above. Further agitate the surface with the aid of a wet mop.
- Rinse the surface with clean water to remove the dirty detergent solution
- Remove the rinse water with a wet vacuum, dry mop, or microfiber towel.

** For high traffic locations, it is recommended to clean the floors in this manner once a day along with wet mopping at regular intervals.*

BEST PRACTICES

- Clean up spills and surface contaminants as quickly as possible. This mindful approach helps to eliminate stains and makes routine cleaning much easier.
- Less is more. Top coating finishes and sealers are generally not required, and in most cases are not recommended due to the low absorptive nature of our tile products.
- Don't ignore the grout. This is part of the tiled system and should not be neglected. In most cases, cleaning the joints in the same manner and frequency of your tile will work just fine.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO NEVER...

- Use cleansers containing harsh acids such as muriatic or 100% phosphoric varieties for routine maintenance. These chemicals can be harmful to the tiles, grout, and setting materials.
- Use wax cleaners, oil-based detergents or sealants to maintain your tile (sealants may be used on grout joints and natural stone).
- Use ammonia or cleaners that contain bleach or acid. These products can adversely affect the color and stability of the grout system.
- Use steel wool pads or scouring pads or any other harsh cleaning agents containing metal.