

CERAMIC TILE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Daily Tile Care

- Always follow tile manufacturer instructions. If instructions have not been provided to you, please ask your sales representative for the proper information.
- Old Port Specialty Tile recommends Miracle Products for regular cleaning and sealing of your tile. These products can be purchased at our store. If you have questions regarding which products are appropriate for use on your tile installation, please ask a sales representative.
- It is recommended to not mix cleaning and sealing products from different manufacturers.
- Always do a test patch in an inconspicuous area prior to applying any cleaning or sealing product on your tile.

****Manufacturer's instructions will supersede the below information, should the instructions differ****

- Ceramic tiles are relatively maintenance free products that require little continuing care beyond regular cleaning. Most cleaning can be done with a damp cloth and a gentle nonacidic soap.
- A multipurpose spray cleaner, which removes soap scum, hard water deposits, and mildew designed for everyday use, can be used on wall tile areas in residential baths and showers.
- The entire area should be cleaned and scrubbed with cleaner solution and 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. Remember that you should sweep or vacuum floor areas prior to cleaning to remove any dust or debris. 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.
- Take care to avoid “over the counter” tile cleaners that contain phosphoric and glycolic acids that could etch some ceramic tile surfaces.
- Many glazed ceramics do not require sealing. However, ceramic tile with crackle glazes should be sealed prior to grouting to prevent grout colorant from staining the clay body. Grout joints should be sealed on all ceramic tile applications, especially those in wet or high traffic areas. All tiles with crackle glazes require resealing on a periodic basis.

****All ceramic tiles are subject to crazing. Crazing is crackling solely within the fired glaze due to tensile stresses, temperature fluctuation, or expansion and contraction of the tile body or setting bed. Crazing is not a defect, nor does it affect the durability of the products and is an inherent characteristic of the manufacturing process. ****

Grout Care

****Old Port Specialty Tile recommends looking at manufacturer's specifications for the best grout types for your product****

- Most tile installations use cementitious grouts. This type of grout should be sealed after installation to prevent the color from staining. The grout should be sealed with a penetrating/impregnating sealer (often called grout sealers) which does not contain silicone, as silicone can shorten the useful life of the sealer. Epoxy grouts, conversely, are chemically cured and acid resistant and, as a result, do not require a sealer. The application of a good quality penetrating/impregnating sealer into the grout joints of a cementitious grout will not change the natural color of the grout, but will prevent the penetration of moisture, simplify maintenance, and help prevent staining or discoloration. Only the grout needs to be sealed, not glazed floor or wall tiles. Grout can be sealed seventy-two hours after installation.
- There are different grades of penetrating/impregnating sealers, therefore the useful life and price will differ between a low quality and high-quality sealer. You may need to reapply the sealer on an annual basis depending on the sealer quality, traffic patterns, and maintenance routine. Some sealers have multiple year warranties for useful life. Refer to the manufacturer warranty, technical & product information for specific details on product installation, useful life, and product applications (including any warnings) before use.
- Neither sealing the grout nor using a stain resistant grout will guarantee against surface build-up or discoloration of the grout. Grout needs to be cleaned on a periodic basis to remove any surface build-up. Routine grout cleaning can be done with a daily concentrated household or commercial cleaner depending on the application. When heavy duty grout cleaning is required, you will need to use a professional strength Tile & Grout Cleaner that can remove grease, soap scum, body oil, mildew stains, algae, and synthetic or acrylic waxes from the grout joints. However, such a product should contain non-polluting chemicals and low VOC levels. This type of product is available for purchase at Old Port Specialty Tile.