



Basic Tile Care

Cleaning Porcelain and Ceramic

Porcelain and ceramic tiles are among the easiest of flooring materials to clean. Due to their impenetrable glazes their surfaces are resistant to water, dirt, chemicals, oil, debris, and even germs and bacteria. It is highly recommended to sweep or vacuum the surface of your floors prior to washing them with water to prevent the tile from becoming muddy or leaving a residue after cleaning.

There are many cleaning solutions on the market today suitable for cleaning tile, but it is best to stick to a pH neutral cleaner or water with a mild soap solution. This will increase the longevity of the application including the grout. Although the glaze of a tile is resistant to staining they are not always chemical proof and in some cases will discolor if exposed to certain chemicals. The following instructions explain how to clean glazed tile surfaces.

Cleaning Post Install-

Cleaning is a necessary step at the end of each job. The inappropriate or late removal of the residues may leave streaks that are difficult to remove at a later time. These streaks can form into a cement film on the floor that will absorb every type of dirt, giving the impression that the material is constantly dirty.

To remove cement fillers:

1. Wash the floor with a heavy duty tile and grout cleaner which is a solution ready to use straight out of the bottle. If necessary a water and acid solution must be used to cut through heavier film.
2. Follow manufacturers instructions closely regarding application and clean up.
3. Rinse floors thoroughly with water to ensure that the floor is free from detergents or residues. If needed, the operation can be repeated.

Cleaning of Glazed Products:

For glazed tiles, use the following instructions for general cleaning:

1. Sweep or vacuum loose dirt and dust from the floor. An untreated dry dust mop is recommended instead of a broom.
 2. Mop the floor with a mild detergent, degreaser, or tile cleaning solution (do not use wax, oil-based, or abrasive cleaners).
 3. Rinse the tile thoroughly with clean water.
 4. Drying with a clean cloth or rag is recommended to increase the shine and to prevent water spots.
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Cleaning of Textured Glazed Products:

A textured tile surface requires additional cleaning procedures. A standard wet-mopping will not effectively clean a textured surface. For cleaning textured surfaces, follow these instructions:

1. Sweep or vacuum dust and debris from the floor. When sweeping, use a soft-bristle broom and sweep in multiple directions. First follow the direction of the tile, and then sweep diagonally. This will ensure the removal of all foreign material that might be residing in the texture.
2. Saturate the tile with a neutral tile cleaning solution, mild detergent, or a degreaser. Allow the cleaning solution to remain on the floor 5 - 10 minutes. Scrub the floor with a medium bristle brush; again using a two-direction method.
3. Rinse the floor with clean water to remove any left over detergents.
4. For high traffic areas it is recommended to clean the floor at least once per day and wet mop at regular intervals.
5. Drying with a clean cloth or rag is recommended to increase the shine and to prevent water spots.

Always Remember:

- Do not clean porcelain tile flooring with ammonia or with cleaners that contain bleach and/or acid. Acid and ammonia based cleaners may modify grout color and stability.
- Use a cleaner that is pH neutral.
- Do not use wax, oil-based, abrasive cleaners, or sealants.
- Agents that contain any dyes or colors are not recommended.
- Use rugs at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked onto the tile flooring from outdoors. Tiles are scratch resistant but not scratch proof.
- Do not use steel wool pads to remove tough debris or stains. Steel wool may scratch your tiles and loose steel particles may eventually create rust stains in the grout over time.