

STAINMASTER[®] BRAND

TILE CARE & MAINTENANCE



CERAMIC TILE

Routine Care

Tile, whether glazed ceramic or porcelain, should be maintained on a regular and frequent basis to prevent build-up of soil, grease, residue, soap detergents, sealers, dampness, liquids, etc., to keep the surface clean and lessen slippery conditions.

Glazed ceramic and porcelain tiles require minimal maintenance. Either can be cleaned with clear water and/or a pH neutral liquid cleaner (soapless). Follow with a clear water rinse and wipe dry to prevent film formation. As with most porcelains, spilled liquids may stain light-colored products if not promptly removed. Neither sealing nor acid cleaning is recommended for any STAINMASTER[®] glazed ceramic or porcelain tile.

Removal of Sealers/Waxes/Floor Finishes

If you need to remove a topical sealer or floor wax from a ceramic tile you should use a Tile Sealer & Adhesive Remover. Always test a small area first. Apply a liberal amount of undiluted sealer & adhesive remover to a manageable area.

Allow setting without drying until coating or residue softens. Reapply if necessary, until sealer softens and can be removed. If necessary, agitate with a white nylon scrub pad. Wipe up the residue with a cotton towel or sponge. Rinse thoroughly with clean water.

NOTE: Do not use on Natural Stone products.

CERAMIC TILE GROUT CARE

Penetrating/Impregnating Sealer

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. If you are using Mapei[®] Ultracolor Plus grout, this does not need to be sealed. If you are using another grout, please be sure to read the product labeling to validate if the product is pre-sealed.

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 72 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's warranty, technical & product information for specific details on product installation, useful life, and product applications (including any warnings) before use.

Grout Maintenance

Neither sealing the grout nor using a 100% Epoxy Grout will guarantee against surface buildup or discoloration of the grout. Grout needs to be cleaned on a periodic basis to remove any surface buildup. 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 is capable of removing 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 volatile organic compound (VOC) levels.

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CERAMIC TILE GROUT CARE (continued)

Grout Color Restoration

When grout has been stained to the point that it cannot be maintained or returned to its natural color, you can return the grout back to its original color or any other color through the use of a “grout stain”. Grout Stains are epoxy-based products that are specifically designed to penetrate into the grout and seal the surface with a permanent color. Once the grout has been stained there is no need to seal it any further with a penetrating/impregnating sealer. Prior to staining, the grout joint should be cleaned thoroughly to remove any dirt, oils, grease or sealers with a professional strength Tile & Grout Cleaner.

Post-Grout Clean Up

Grout haze is a film that has been left behind on the surface of the tile as part of the final grouting process. Usually this is buffed off the surface after the grout has achieved its initial 12 to 24-hour cure. The removal of the haze is often difficult when buffing with a clean rag or floor machine. Cementitious grout haze can be successfully removed with Sulfamic Acid, which is a mild acid that attacks and breaks down cement smears. There are several products on the market called grout haze removers, which usually contain Sulfamic Acid.

Sulfamic Acid can also be purchased in powder form and mixed with water to different strengths by qualified professionals. Similarly, 100% Solids Epoxy Grout haze can be removed with an Epoxy Haze Remover. These removers are formulated to safely and quickly remove cured epoxy haze from new tile installations. Their unique formulation will soften most epoxy hazes for easy removal without damaging the grout or tile, usually in one application. Sulfamic Acid or grout removers should never be used on Natural Stone products.

Sealing

Seal with a breathable, non-film forming masonry sealer, to prevent staining from rusty downspouts, splattered mud, etc. Sealing is strongly recommended for dry-stacked applications and/or for harsh environments.