

*Disclaimer: This document is a general reference guide for cleaning and maintaining porcelain tile. Always follow manufacturer recommendations for installing & maintaining products. If available, these are typically located in each box of tile and sometimes online.*

[Recommended cleaners can be viewed & purchased here.](#)

Porcelain tile is a durable, practical and hygienic surface that can last a lifetime if properly cared for. With proper maintenance, tile and grout appearance are preserved, slip resistance can be maintained, and hygienic benefits can be utilized. Despite being nearly waterproof, it is important to understand that porcelain is not maintenance-free. There is a wide variety of porcelain suitable for various applications, and it's important to be aware of features that may need special care or attention, such as polished finishes or unglazed surfaces. The following guide provides practical information on the care and maintenance of porcelain tile.

### General Tips

- Regularly inspect tiles and have any damaged tiles professionally removed/replaced.
- Promptly wipe spills and clean with a damp cloth or sponge.
- Sweep and/or vacuum floors regularly to remove any dirt particles, dust or debris. Over time, buildup can be abrasive to the tile surface.
- Use felt or rubber protective pads under furniture to prevent scratching tile surfaces.
- Place good quality floor mats in high traffic locations and areas that are susceptible to moisture (ie. near entrance/exit ways).

### Cleaning

- Use a damp mop or sponge with an all-purpose household cleaner that is not oil-based and has low VOC to clean glazed floor tiles on a regular basis.
- Wipe glazed wall tiles periodically using a dampened cloth or sponge and a non oil-based household cleaner.
- Use a mild, soapless detergent with neutral pH for cleaning unglazed tiles.
- Do not combine ammonia and household bleaches and under any circumstances, do not use muriatic acid on any tiled surface.
- Thoroughly read & follow all manufacture warnings and instructions for all cleaning products before use and test all cleaning solutions and materials in a small inconspicuous area before full application.
- After using cleaning solutions, wipe down the entire area with a clean cloth or mop and clear water to remove any residue that may have been left behind.
- Do not use cleaning wax, oil based cleaners, ammonia, sealants or products containing acid or bleach as part of routine maintenance.
- Avoid abrasive cleaning products such as scouring pads or steel wool pads, as they can damage polished, shiny, or uneven surfaces
- Do not use vinegar to clean.

### Grout

Routine grout cleaning can be done with an all-purpose household cleaner that is non-oil-based and has low VOC depending on the application. For periodic deep cleaning of grout, use a concentrated tile & grout cleaner. Always read and follow the instructions on the product label. Rinse the area with clear water and pat dry with a clean towel or sponge to remove any residue. As true for all tiled surfaces, do not use acidic solutions / cleaners as part of a regular maintenance routine.

- Do not use essential oils as it can penetrate the grout. These attract dust and airborne contaminants.
- Ensure the cleaning product selected is compatible with cleaning the grout joints.

### Sealing

Unglazed porcelain or quarry tiles may be sealed with a penetrating sealer based on manufacturer recommendations. The majority of porcelain is glazed, and glazed porcelain tile does not need to be sealed. However you may decide to seal the grout joints (non-epoxy only). Sealing the grout can prevent moisture absorption, staining & discolouration. Epoxy based grouts do not need to be sealed. If you choose to seal the grout, periodic re-sealing is required. Check with the sealer manufacturer to determine the sealer's lifespan, as it's based on application use and sealer type.

### Troubleshooting

**Residual Coatings (Sealers/Waxes, etc.)** - Use a tile sealer & adhesive remover to clear off a topical sealer or floor wax from a ceramic tile. Be sure to test a small area before full application and always follow the instructions on the product label. Working in small manageable areas, apply the sealer & adhesive remover as directed, allowing it to set without drying. Coating should begin to soften. If necessary, reapply the remover and lightly agitate the surface with a nylon scrub pad until the sealer softens and can be easily removed. Rinse the area with clear water and pat dry with a clean towel or sponge to remove any residue.

**Grout Haze** - After tile installation, grout residue can form a white haze like film on the surface of the tile. This can be buffed off the surface using a clean cloth once the grout has finished curing. If the residue is very stubborn or the tiles are unglazed a special grout haze remover solution may be used. Read and follow the instructions on the product label. The solution will break down the cement and allow the haze to be wiped away. Rinse the area with clear water and wipe dry with a clean towel or sponge to remove any residue. Do not use acidic solutions/cleaners as part of a regular maintenance routine. Many of the grout products on the market today are polymer modified, which means they have latex in them. Be sure to purchase a solution that is compatible with the type of grout you have used.

**High Moisture Areas** - Tiled surfaces in your bathroom may require a more thorough routine cleaning because of a build-up of soap scum, body oils or hard-water stains. Use a clean, damp cloth, or sponge with a neutral pH cleaner, allowing it to stand about five minutes before rinsing and drying. Specialty bathroom cleaners may also be used (always test first). Clean shower regularly in high moisture areas.