

## CERAMIC TILE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

A primary benefit of our ceramic tile is its easy maintenance attributes. Regular care and maintenance will help keep tiled surfaces looking their best. Routine cleaning of ceramic tile can be done with warm water, any commonly sold light-duty neutral pH neutral detergent cleaning product, or any nonabrasive cleaning solutions that are commonly recommended for ceramic tile.

Acid, alkaline, and solvent-based cleaners can damage and/or discolor the tiles and grout and should **NOT** be used.

### INITIAL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

The most important step for future maintenance involves the complete removal of any grout haze during the installation. This can usually be accomplished by simply scrubbing the surface of the ceramic tile using a microfiber cloth, soft bristle brush, or white scrub pad depending on soil load, and hot water mixed with a weak dilution of close-to-neutral pH detergent additive. When clean, thoroughly rinse and dry with a microfiber towel.

Grout joints should be treated with a commercially available penetrating type sealer, not film-forming coatings. Follow the sealer manufacturer's recommendations and instructions. For grout joints, it is normally recommended that the joints be initially sealed after curing for 7 to 14 days (follow the grout manufacturer's recommendations for suggested cure time). The primary purpose of a sealer is to render joints less porous and thereby more stain resistant. The ceramic tile itself is non-porous and less likely to stain. Once initial cleaning has been thoroughly completed, our general maintenance procedures can be followed for continuous long-lasting beauty.

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE

General maintenance and cleaning of tile will vary depending on the surface texture and soil load. Sweeping or vacuuming to remove loose soil or other surface contaminants should be done first, followed by wiping with a slightly damp cloth and clean water. If a more aggressive cleaning process is required, use a pH neutral detergent cleaner followed by a thorough rinsing.

The following five steps are essential for the successful maintenance of ceramic tile:

1. All spills should be cleaned as quickly as possible.
2. Use only the recommended dilution of detergent. More is not always better; higher concentrations of detergent in the cleaning solution will only make it more difficult to rinse.
3. Allow the proper dwell time. The detergent solution must be given time (5-10 minutes) to act on the soil load. Always follow label instructions on all products used.
4. Scrub with a white scrub pad or soft bristle brush.
5. Rinse thoroughly with clean, clear water to remove the dirty detergent solution and soil. Rinsing is an important step in the maintenance procedure. If dirty detergent solution is not removed and is allowed to dry on the surface, a coating may form which is very difficult to remove. Completely remove the rinse water with a clean dry mop or microfiber towel.

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