

Ceramic Tile Care & Maintenance

Routine Care for Your Tile

Glazed tile walls will easily keep their lovely look with simple routine care. Using a nonabrasive household cleaner wipe regularly with a damp cloth or sponge is usually all that is needed. A window cleaner (such as Windex or Glass Plus) is ideal for cleaning glossy tile surfaces.

For glazed-tile floors, vacuum regularly to remove dirt and gritty particles. Follow with a mop or sponge dampened with an approved household cleaner.

Clean unglazed-tile walls and unglazed floor tiles in a similar manner. However, dampen mop or sponge with a solution of water and soap less detergent (Soap less detergents are commonly found on supermarket shelves such as Spic and Span).

Tiled surfaces in your bathroom (tub, shower, vanity tops, etc.) may require a more thorough routine cleaning because of a build-up of soap scum, body oil, or hard water stains. Use the usual clean damp cloth or sponge with an all-purpose cleaner, but allow it to stand for about five minutes before rinsing and drying. (You may also use a solution of equal parts of water and white vinegar or a commercial cleaner available from your local tile distributor.)

Repairing Damaged or Loose Tiles

A damaged or broken tile should be removed and replaced by a good tile mechanic only. If the tile is simply loose, you should be able to repair it yourself. Clean the back and sides of the tiles of all grout and bonding material. Apply fresh mastic and set the tile into place. Let dry for 24 hours and then grout. If you have more than a few loose tiles, it is best to consult a professional tile mechanic to handle the job.

Tile Grout

Grout may present a special cleaning problem because it is susceptible to many staining agents. It should be cleaned immediately if subjected to these substances. This table below lists some of the typical causes of stains as well as the recommended method of removal for each.

Continued...pg. 2

Stains**Removal Agent**

Grease and Fats	Soda and water of commercial spot lifter
Inks and Colored Dyes	Household Bleach
Mercurochrome	Ammonia
Blood	Hydrogen Peroxide or Household Bleach
Coffee, Tea, Food, Fruit, Juices, Lipstick	Neutral Cleaner in hot water, followed by Hydrogen Peroxide or Household Bleach

Here's a hint on how to keep shower walls mildew free. Clean regularly with a tile cleaner or fungicide such as Lysol or Ammonia. Dry with a towel after each use and leave curtain or door open between showers.

Heavy Duty Cleaning

For high traffic areas or when tile has been neglected for along time, heavy duty cleaning may be required.

Glazed wall tiles and counter tops should be cleaned with a scouring powder, commercial tile cleaner, or an all-purpose cleaner applied with a stiff brush. Rinse and wipe dry.

To clean badly soiled counter tops, cover with a solution of scouring powder and very hot water. Let stand for about five minutes, and then scrub with a stiff brush. Rinse thoroughly. If stain remains, apply bleach and let stand. Rinse well with clean water and dry after cleaning.

For glazed tile floors, use a commercial tile cleaner or apply a strong solution of an all-purpose cleaner or scouring powder paste. Let stand for five minutes, brush and scrub. Then rinse with clean water and wipe dry.

Use chlorine bleach or hydrogen peroxide for stained shower surfaces. If badly stained its best to try a scouring powder containing a bleaching agent such as Ajax, or Comet. Let stand for four to six hours before scrubbing and then rinse thoroughly.

For heavy duty cleaning of unglazed tile walls, make a paste of scouring powder. Apply to surface and let stand for five minutes. Scour with brush, rinse and wipe dry.

Continued...pg. 3

Unglazed tile floors can also be cleaned with a scouring powder paste. Let stand for five minutes, scour with a brush, rinse and wipe dry. A small brush is suitable for most floors, but you may want to choose a scrubbing machine for large areas.

You will find that many unglazed tile floors will develop a patina as they age, giving them a soft shine which keeps them looking better longer and reduces maintenance.

Remember, prompt clean up of all spills and regular cleaning will keep your ceramic surfaces looking their best.

What Not To Do, and What To Do To Your Tiles

Do **not** combine ammonia and household bleaches.

Do **not** use harsh cleaning agents with stainless steel pads, which can scratch or damage the surface of your tile.

Do **not** use a cleaning agent that contains colour on an unglazed tile. It has a relatively porous body and may absorb the colour.

Do test scouring powders in a small area before using on tile.

Do read and follow label directions for all cleaners.

Do see you're nearest Tile distributors for advise on special problems or if you have a question.

Ceramic tile is one of the most durable and easiest surfaces to maintain you can choose for your walls, floors, counter tops, etc. With proper care and maintenance, it will maintain its original beauty and luster for many years.

Generally, all that's necessary to keep your tile looking good as new is a quick wipe with a damp cloth or mop. Heavier cleaning may be called for periodically to refresh your tile, or to clean tile that has been neglected for a long time. No special or unusual treatment is ever required. It never needs to be waxed or polished. To protect the long life of your tile, just follow the simple suggestions in this article.

Questions? Email: admin@carpetstudio.ca - Ceramic Tile Care and Maintenance

Last updated July 2, 2010