

# CERAMIC & PORCELAIN TILE CARE & MAINTENANCE

## MAINTENANCE

Ceramic tile is one of the most durable and maintenance friendly surfaces you can choose for your walls, floors, countertops, etc. With proper care & minimal maintenance, it will retain its original beauty and luster for many years. Generally, all that is necessary to keep your tile looking as good as new is a quick wipe with a clean damp cloth or mop to help prevent buildup of soil, grease, residue, soap detergents, sealers, dampness, liquids, etc. Prompt cleanup of spills and regular cleaning will also aid in keeping your ceramic tile surfaces looking their best.

Many general purpose (neutral ph cleaners) are effective for the regular maintenance and cleaning of ceramic tile. It is important that the cleaner used has a non-oil, non-soap base. Cleaners with these components may cause problems due to residues left behind in the cleaning process, which may trap dirt. For best results, the following maintenance procedures are recommended for the various finishes of our ceramic & porcelain collections.

### Honed

For moderate soiling:

1. Sweep, using a soft, natural-bristle broom or vacuum floor of debris.
2. Dampen the floor with the recommended amount of general purpose neutral cleaner and agitate the solution. An auto-scrubber may be used.
3. Allow the solution to sit on the surface a minimum of five minutes. Allowing the cleaning mixture to remain on the floor for a short period of time will increase the suspension of the dirt particles and produce a cleaner surface.
4. Remove the dirty cleaning solution from the floor either with a wet-vacuum or mop and rinse with clean water.
5. Remove excess water from the floor. Buff with dry mop or towel (if needed).

### For heavy soiling:

1. Sweep or vacuum floor of debris.
2. If there are deeply soiled or stain-appearing spots on the surface of the tile, one should first attempt to identify them and pre-treat. Different surface contaminants require different cleaning methods and chemicals (see chart).
3. Scrub with cleaning compound and floor machine equipped with abrasive pad or stiff, natural-bristle brush. For residential and small areas, use a scrub brush.
4. Remove the dirty cleaning solution with clean-clear water. In residential or small applications this may be done with a clean mop. To thoroughly remove the cleaning agent from the surface, it may be necessary to rinse the floor more than once.
5. Remove excess water from the floor.

### Polished

1. Sweep or vacuum the floor of loose dirt. An untreated, dry dust mop may be more effective than a soft bristle broom.
2. Wipe or mop with a diluted solution of non-abrasive ph neutral cleaner and clean, clear water.
3. If cleaning solution is used, rinse thoroughly with clean water.
4. Dry or buff to increase shine and prevent water spots.

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## **Heavily textured or clefted finishes**

Porcelain stoneware textured surfaces offer an excellent safety feature in reference to their higher degree of slip-resistance. However, they require a slight variation in cleaning procedure. Due to the undulation and texture of the tile surface, it will be necessary to “reach” the soil that rests on the low points of the tile. Standard wet mopping will not be completely effective in cleaning these textured surfaces.

1. Sweep or vacuum floor. If sweeping, use a soft bristle broom. The choice of brush bristles is important because a strong, thorough bristle action is required to remove debris. Sweep in two directions. First, follow the direction of the tile, then sweep diagonal to the tile to ensure complete removal of all foreign material.
2. Dampen the surface with a neutral cleaning solution (use a degreaser in food preparation areas), agitate and allow the mixture to remain on the floor for a few minutes giving the cleanser time to activate. Use a scrub machine or bristle brush to scrub, once again using a cross-action pattern to ensure soil removal.
3. Rinse the floor with clean water and remove with a wet vacuum or dry toweling so as to eliminate dirty water from escaping into the low points of the surface. Note: Frequency of maintenance and type of procedure will depend on several factors including pedestrian traffic, weather conditions, walk-off mats, color of floor (lighter floors show more soiling) and environment. Please take these conditions under consideration when planning your maintenance schedule.