



TILE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Proper Care During Construction:

Tile products are considered to be a finished material and should not be installed until all heavy construction is completed. In between the installation and putting the floor into service, it is crucial to properly protect the tile and grout in order to avoid construction related cleaning problems.

Generally there is a build up of dirt and debris on every construction site. This dirt ~~and~~ thin set to properly cure, and it also may become extremely slippery as construction dust settles. Proper and diligent

care must be used to maintain the protective cover during construction. This will ensure a quality appearance when the floor is opened for continuous use.

After Installation:

Remove all grout and construction dirt after the tile has been installed. Find instructions for cleaning grout on the grout container. In most cases, grout can be scrubbed off with hot water and detergent, followed by a thorough rinse with water. Dry with a wet



If the grout pigment discolors the surface of the tile, we recommend that the tile be treated with a grout release agent before grouting. Tiles with a heavily textured surface will benefit from the use of a grout release. A grout release will improve the cleanability of the grout from the surface of the tile. To prevent possible contamination of the surface, the procedures outlined below should be followed:

1. Prior to grouting, apply the grout release in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. This can be done in one or two coats. If more than one coat is applied, allow 45 60 minutes of dry time between coats.
 2. Wait 45 60 minutes after applying the grout release before installing the grout, followed by normal cleaning of the excess grout from the surface
2. prevent

5. Rinse thoroughly with clean, clear water to remove the dirty detergent solution and soil. Rinsing is an important step in the maintenance procedure. Remove the rinse water with a wet vacuum, dry mop or toweling. If dirty detergent solution is not removed and is allowed to dry on the surface, a coating will form which is very difficult to remove.

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 and grout cleaner that is capable of removing grease, soap scum, oils, mildew stains, algae, and synthetic or acrylic waxes from the grout joints. Select a product that does not contain polluting chemicals and is low VOC. This type of product can be purchased from most home centers, or through your local, professional floor covering dealer. You might also consider professional grout cleaning companies.

When grout has been stained to the point that it cannot be maintained or returned to its natural color, you can use 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 and grout cleaner. This can be purchased from most home centers or through your local professional floor covering dealer.

Preventing Stains and Scratches:

Porcelain is resistant to scratches, etching and stains, however it is not damage proof. Take care to avoid exposing porcelain to permanent inks or dyes, as these might not be removable. If porcelain surfaces are exposed to permanent marker or dye, rinse the area with water as soon as possible then apply an approved cleaning product. Rinse and dry thoroughly.

The same caution should be taken with juice, wine, coffee and other food. It is best to wipe up spills immediately to prevent possible stains.

When chopping vegetables, slicing bread or preparing other foods with sharp utensils on a porcelain countertop, use a cutting board. Use cleaning products and implements that are non abrasive. Additionally, sweep or vacuum tile

Cleaning Chart:

FILE SR / 95	FOOD GROUPS	MUSTARD	PORCELAIN & CERAMIC TILE CLEANER
FILE SR / 95	TEA BAGS	MAYONNAISE	PORCELAIN & CERAMIC TILE CLEANER
PORCELAIN & CERAMIC TILE CLEANER	FILE SR / 95	ICE CREAM	

Disclaimer:

Architectural Surfaces does not manufacture or install tile or cleaning products. The information provided here is meant as an information source only. To obtain proper handling, application and safety instructions, contact the manufacturer prior to usage. The products described in this document may have chemicals that cause reactions to certain individuals. We strongly recommend using safety glasses, masks, and gloves when handling any materials that may contain chemicals.