

Technical Bulletin: Care & Maintenance

With a few exceptions, the same techniques to clean and maintain walls are the same used on ceramic tile. The surface is strong, durable and can stand up to normal use, but it can also degrade with incompatible cleaning products and techniques. This bulletin identifies the cleaning products and techniques that are recommended in order to maintain optimal surface conditions.

PRECAUTIONS



- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for product use and safety.
- Practice proper eye and skin protection procedures, including using chemical resistant gloves and safety glasses or goggles.
- Work in a well-ventilated environment.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

General Cleaning

Wipe the surface regularly with a clean damp cloth or non-abrasive sponge. Do not use the scrubber side of dual-action sponges as this will scratch and mar the tile surface. Use only the soft sponge side. Microfiber cloths, usually readily available in the cleaning products aisle, are best for routine wiping and maintaining a high polished finish. Do not use wax-based or oil-based cleaners to bring out the shine because the chemicals in those products can harm the surface over time.



✓ Do Use:

- Standard household sponges
- Clean, soft, damp cloths
- Any typical, non-abrasive disinfectant spray
- Any typical, non-abrasive all purpose or bathroom cleaner
- Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
- White vinegar, for tough stains

✗ Do NOT Use:

- Abrasive scrubber pads
- Oil or wax-based cleaners for shine
- Steel wool or pads (Brillo® Pads)
- Metal scrapers or utensils

CLEANING THE TILE SURFACE

Deep Cleaning

This refers to cleaning the tile surface of food particles, splattered on grease, soap residue and other common dirt and grime. Use only non-abrasive, liquid-based neutral products to clean the tile surface. A cleaning product with any amount of abrasive particles, such as powdered cleaners like Comet® or Ajax®, should not be used because they will scratch and dull the polished surface. Use only soft cloths or sponges. Also, harsh acidic chemicals are corrosive to the tile surface and should be avoided. These include household bleach and ammonia-based cleaning products.



✓ Do Use:

- Liquid-based cleansers (Simple Green® or Dawn®)
- Disinfectant wipes (Clorox® brand wipes or similar)
- Foaming cleansers (Dow scrubbing Bubbles®)
- All purpose multi-surface cleansers and glass cleansers (Windex® or similar)
- White vinegar

✗ Do NOT Use:

- Abrasive scrubber pads
- Bleach
- Ammonia-based cleaners

MOISTURE CONTROL AND EFFECTS

Water left on the surface will not harm the finish. But as with any surface, mold, mildew and soap scum can form if water and moisture is allowed to remain without regular cleaning and drying.

For bathroom and tub walls, we recommend leaving the shower curtain or door open for maximum ventilation to allow surface moisture to evaporate. Wiping down the surfaces with rubber squeegees or soft towels after a shower will help speed the drying process.



SPECIALTY, HOME-RECIPE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY

There are numerous cleaning products being developed and marketed as environmentally safe. There are also many home-brewed cleaning suggestions posted to social media every day. While most are probably safe for use on the tile, it is challenging to test every product and concoction available. We recommend that if you choose to use these types of cleaning products, first test it on a small, out of the way tile – for example, in a corner under a cabinet or behind a stove – to see how the tile surface reacts before using it on the entire surface. If the product is non-abrasive and chemically neutral, it may be a conscientious alternative to standard cleaning products.



GROUT MAINTENANCE

Since the grout used with the panels is the same grout used with ceramic tiles, standard cleaning and maintenance suggestions apply. For stains, apply a baking soda paste or a hydrogen peroxide solution to the stained grout. Let it sit for a while, then scrub with a toothbrush or some other small nylon brush, and rinse well. Or use a commercially prepared grout cleaner and let it sit for about 15 minutes before scrubbing the dirt away and rinsing with clean water. In either case, be careful not to scratch the tile surface with the brush.



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