

FLOORING – CERAMIC TILE

MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Clean tiles by vacuuming or damp mopping with a solution of warm water and a neutral-type floor cleaner.
- Sponge mops should not be used; they will force dirt into the grout.

Grout Maintenance and Care

Ceramic tiles in bathroom showers, floors and countertops are a beautiful addition to any home, but they are located in high-traffic areas and are subject to possible household abuse. Tile requires some simple homeowner maintenance to keep it in top condition. Cracking is an inherent characteristic of ceramic tile and grout. Cracks in tile are common in any home, and the grout joints pose the biggest potential problem areas.

Grout is a cement product and may vary in color and shade from a single grout sample. Shading variations may occur in the grout after it is installed. Colored grouts tend to lighten in color as they cure. Around sinks, where water is prevalent, and around stove tops where cooking oil and grease is present, the grout may appear darker than in other areas of the kitchen counter.

Though the installed grout joint may appear dry and hard even after one day, grout continues to hydrate (cure) in the presence of retained water, developing the majority of its designated strength within 28 days. The grout manufacturer suggests at least a 28-day curing time before any sealers are applied. Applying sealers prior to 28 days can stop the curing process of the grout, resulting in ‘soft’ or ‘powder’ grout joints. Complete satisfaction of the color and the desired hardness of the grout joints should be in place 28 days after installation. If you choose to use a “grout sealer”, allow complete “curing” to take place before their application.

NOTE: Application of any “sealer” products to the grout will usually void any warranties on the grout. Once a “sealer” is applied, warranties against efflorescence are voided.

To clean your grout, use warm water, clean water with a teaspoon of vinegar or ammonia to break up grease and always follow with a clean rinse.