

CARE AND MAINTENANCE – CERAMIC AND PORCELAIN TILE

ROUTINE TILE CARE

Wipe glazed wall tiles periodically using a cloth or sponge dampened with a neutral, non oil-based household cleaner. Vacuum glazed floor tiles regularly to remove dirt and other gritty particles, then damp mop or sponge with a neutral, all-purpose, non oil-based cleaner. Do not use ammonia; it may discolor grout.

GROUT CARE

Once the tile has been cleaned and dried (shortly after installation), grout joints should be treated with a silicone sealer. Grout is porous, and sealing it will simplify future maintenance. Epoxy grouts do not require a sealer. Reapply sealant semi-annually for maximum stain protection.

HEAVY-DUTY CLEANING

Glazed Wall Tile – Clean glazed wall tiles with scouring powder or all-purpose cleaner applied to a non-metallic pad. Rinse and wipe dry.

Glazed Floor Tile – Use a commercial tile cleaner, or apply a strong solution of an all-purpose, non oil-based cleaner or scouring powder paste. Let stand for five minutes; brush, then rinse with clean water. Wipe dry.

Badly Soiled Countertops – Apply a solution of scouring powder and very hot water to countertops. Let stand for five minutes. Scrub with a stiff brush and rinse.

MAINTENANCE

Stone and Slate – Stone and Slate products require unique care. Proper care will preserve the natural stone's original appearance. Use a neutral cleaner with a pH between 7 and 10. Avoid all purpose cleaners or soaps containing water-soluble inorganic or crystallizing salts, harmful alkali or acids. Stone and Slate products should be sealed with either a penetrating or surface coating type sealer, depending on the desired look. Test the sealant on the stone or slate for effect on color prior to full application. Sealed surfaces should be tested periodically for effectiveness. Many factors will contribute to the length of time a sealer will last, including the type and texture of the stone or slate, wear factors, cleaning methods used, weather conditions and sun exposure.

Commonly available tile cleaning products can be used to remove soap scum, hard-water deposits and mildew stains. These products are available at local supermarkets or home service centers. For soft water, use an all-purpose, non oil-based cleaner. Allow cleaner to stand for five minutes before lightly scrubbing with a sponge. Rinse well.

MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS

Tile cleaning products and sealants may be purchased at your local home center or floor covering store. Consult the manufacturer of the cleaner/sealant for usage instructions and more detailed information regarding the impact of their product on your tile, stone and grout prior to application.

Do's and Don'ts

- Do not use cleaners containing acid or bleach for routine maintenance.
- Do not use wax-based cleaners, oil-based detergents or sealants to maintain your tile (sealants may be used on grout joints).
- Do not use harsh cleaning aids like steel wool pads or any scouring pads containing metal.
- Do not use a cleaning agent that contains color (unglazed tile only).
- Do test scouring powders and sealants on a small area prior to full application.
- Do use a sealer on grout joints.
- Do have a damaged or broken tile removed and replaced only by a qualified tile contractor.

ACCENT STATEMENTS

INSTALLATION

Travertine Resin – Suitable for use on walls, backsplashes and counter edges. Not recommended for use in areas subject to high heat (> 200°F). Install using a high-quality latex modified thinset and a latex modified unsanded grout. Grouting is easier if the face of the pieces are taped using a high quality painter's tape. Residual grout should be removed from the face with a clean sponge and water after letting the grout set for 2-3 minutes. Do not install if the surface temperature is below 50°F.

Metal – Metal tiles have a durable coating that prevents scratching and oxidation.

Wall tiles are recommended for use as a wall covering in interior, vertical applications. They are not suitable for flooring, countertops or exterior installations.

Floor tiles are recommended for use as a floor covering in interior, residential and light commercial applications. Floor tiles can also be used as a wall covering. They are not suitable for countertops or exterior installations. The tiles can be installed in wet areas such as backsplashes, bathroom walls and shower enclosures, but are not recommended in swimming pools or hot tubs because pool chemicals may harm the protective coating. Only use setting materials and grout that conform to ANSI A118.4 (thin-set, epoxy, or grout) or ANSI A136.1 (Mastics & Adhesives). Do not beat in with the butt-end of the trowel and do not lay tiles face down. Do not use scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper or other abrasive implements to remove grout haze. Clean up residue immediately. For tiles that have textured or sculptured relief, cover the surface with a high quality painter's tape. Metal tiles are not recommended in areas where the tiled surface temperature exceeds 175°F (80C) (e.g. behind a wood or gas stove).

ROUTINE CARE

Travertine Resin, Stone and Slate, Ceramic – These items may be cleaned with any neutral, non-abrasive cleaner suitable for ceramic tile or stone. Do not clean with scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper, or other abrasive materials.

Metal – To clean, use an ordinary household cleaner. For best results, we recommend a liquid, non-abrasive cleaner. Powdered or abrasive household cleaners should be tested in a small inconspicuous area to ensure that no damage will result. Do not clean with scouring pads, steel wool, sandpaper or other abrasive materials. Do not use cleaners containing ammonia, bleach or other harsh chemicals. Do not drag or slide furniture or appliances across the tile or permanent damage may result.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

Purchaser agrees to inspect and accept shipments with the knowledge and understanding that any claim of nonconforming product must be presented to Mohawk PRIOR TO INSTALLATION unless the nonconformance arises from a latent defect.

Check local building codes prior to specification or installation to verify that product technical characteristics comply with required parameters.

IMPORTANT PRODUCT SAFETY INFORMATION

Water, oil, grease, etc. create slippery conditions. Floor applications with exposure to these conditions require extra caution in product selection, along with proper maintenance.

SAFETY FACTORS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO TILE SELECTION

- 1 Glazed floor tiles should not be used where there is a consistent presence of water, oil or grease unless C.O.F. exceeds 0.60. This includes outdoor areas.
- 2 Proper Maintenance is critical. Improper maintenance and improper maintenance products can result in a contaminant build-up on the surface of the tile causing the tile to be slippery. See maintenance recommendations.
- 3 Pool decking is considered to have a continuous exposure to standing water and Mohawk does not recommend glazed floor tile on pool decks unless the surface (1) exceeds 0.60 C.O.F. Wet, (2) has a textured surface, and (3) does not have a polished or semi-polished surface.
- 4 Ramped surfaces, irrespective of the slight of the incline, require a more slip resistant surface and Mohawk recommends a minimum of 0.80 C.O.F. on these surfaces.
- 5 Exterior applications are considered to have a continuous exposure to standing water due to weather conditions. Mohawk glazed ceramic tiles are not suitable outdoors subject to freezing. Mohawk and unglazed ceramic and porcelain tiles are suitable for exterior applications where the C.O.F. exceeds 0.60 and the surface is not polished. However, exterior areas require extra attention to minimize slippery conditions including proper drainage, systematic clean up of wet or contaminated conditions and regular inspection of tiled floor surface to assure immediate correction of wet or contaminated conditions.
- 6 "Polished surfaces" create a very smooth surface. Mohawk does not recommend polished surfaces in any areas subject to water, oil or grease exposures.
- 7 No floor tile is "slip proof!"