



CASCADE TILE

General Maintenance

Porcelain 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 build up 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. * **Wait at least 72 hours after initial installation before mopping or cleaning to ensure the tile and grout has dried adequately.**

If a cleaner is necessary Cascade Tile recommends the use Armstrong Once N Done Floor Cleaner. The type of cleaning product may vary depending on the tile application use and should be grout compatible. Routine cleaners should never contain hazardous or polluting products including, but not limited to acids or ammonia. Acids can damage the grout and the glazed surface of the tile, and ammonia can discolor the grout. The entire area should be cleaned and scrubbed with clean water first, if a cleaning solution is necessary then apply through the use of a cotton mop, cloth, sponge, or non-metallic brush. The entire area should be rinsed with clean water to remove any cleaning solution residue. For glazed tile floors, sweep or vacuum regularly to remove dirt and gritty particles. Follow with a mop or sponge dampened with a neutral pH cleaner. If a cleaner is used, be sure the surface is rinsed thoroughly with clean water and dried.

Tiled surfaces in your bathroom may require a more thorough routine cleaning because of a build-up of soap scum, body oils or hard-water stains. Use a clean, damp cloth, or sponge with a neutral pH cleaner, allowing it to stand about five minutes before rinsing and drying. Specialty bathroom cleaners may also be used (always test first). Clean shower regularly with the appropriate tile and stone cleaner. Dry with a towel after each use and leave curtain or door open between showers to allow for maximum ventilation and moisture escape. A multipurpose spray cleaner, which removes soap scum, hard water deposits, and mildew designed for everyday use, can be used on wall tile areas in residential baths and showers. Unglazed, Textured or Uneven tile should be cleaned routinely with concentrated tile cleaners that have a neutral pH for safe regular use, substituting a soft scrub brush or white nylon scrub pad for the mop or sponge will quicken the cleaning process. These cleaners are better suited at removing grease, oils and normal spills from unglazed products. Again these products will vary depending on the application, amount of traffic and the use. The product chosen should also be compatible with cleaning the grout joints at the same time.

Highly polished tile surfaces should be polished dry with a soft absorbent cloth after cleaning to eliminate the buildup of hard-water residue and maintain the high polished

finish. A non-abrasive, neutral pH cleaner can be used (abrasive cleansers could cause scratching to shiny tile).

Floor Mats Protect Your Floors

High-quality floor mats at entrances and exits are key to reducing tile wear. They collect and trap all the corrosive substances that can be tracked in from outdoors, including dirt, sand, grit, oil, asphalt, or even driveway sealer. Also use mats in areas of constant pressure, such as in front of vanities, kitchen sinks and stoves.

Protective Pads On Furniture -- A Good Idea

Attach felt or similar protective pads to all furniture legs, including outdoor metal furniture that rests on tile floors or patios, as it may rust and cause staining.

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