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Caring For It: Quick Tips For Ceramic Tile & Grout / Porcelain Tile & Grout

About Ceramic Tile / Porcelain Tile- Both ceramic and porcelain are smaller, shaped tiled surfaces which became more popular in residential applications after the no-wax floor craze had well run its course.

Always continuing to upgrade the look and serviceability, designers, architects, and builders began to incorporate these tiled options into their designs. And, homeowners followed suit. Ceramic, more so at first, but then porcelain too became an element of choice.

The main difference between ceramic and porcelain tile is what it's made of, the denseness, cost, workability, smoothness, and performance:

Ceramic- is made of softer clay; it's easier to cut, less expensive, and usually is not as smooth.

Porcelain- is denser, made of finer clay & sand. It's harder to cut, more expensive, and smoother. It's more durable than ceramic and considered an upgrade vs. ceramic. Lastly, it is often used in outdoor installations.

Grout -Grout is a moistened material that fills the voided areas between tiles lying side by side. Often referred to as 'grout joints', the grout is not so much involved in securing the tiles to the floor or wall surface; it is more decorative but also stabilizes the tile edges, decreasing the chance of the edges becoming damaged. It also prevents moisture from getting under and behind the tiles, where it can cause moisture damage.

Grout can be installed with thick, wide grout joints. Or it can be installed as thin lines, depending on what style of tile it is dressing. Generally, you see thinner grout joints used on porcelain floors. And some tile, like Mexican "Saltillo" type tile, the grout joints are very wide.

Grout is a source of germs and odors. Grouted surfaces are very porous and absorb dirt, grime, residues, body oils, etc. Grout, on a 'germ level' is considered "a sink," a term used by the scientific communities. And, while it's contaminated, it looks really dirty, especially in high-traffic areas, near work stations or use areas.

Grout generally can become very dirty-looking, forcing people to clean the tile and grout just to remove the dirty appearance and restore a uniform and clean appearance. Over time, people can become extremely frustrated. And although our professional cleaning does wonders to restore a clean appearance, it eventually becomes worn-looking, tired, or stained. And besides re-grouting, there were few options available until recently!

Take the "Dirty Grout" Test...

Before You Call Us! Look closely at all areas of your tile & grout. Police your entryways, workstations, and spots near bathroom vanities, toilets, or showers. Compare traffic lanes to side areas. In kitchens, check around the trash can, sink, stove, and fridge. Don't forget the traffic lanes near the garage or back door. If you see a dissimilar grout color, it's time for a cleaning!

A first line of defense is our professional deep steam cleaning! It's an excellent solution that gets rid of your embarrassing grout headaches!

Tile & grout flooring responds beautifully to our deep steam extraction cleaning. One look at seeing our steam wand move across the floor and you will agree. There can be a night and day difference in the appearance when looking at the cleaned surfaces vs. the uncleaned ones.

In essence, when the steaming takes place, much of the hard work is to clean the grout. First, a pre-spray is applied, then the grout joints are aggressively scrubbed. When this happens, you often see the floor turn dark as the grout soils and oils release across the wetted tile surface. Once steamed, the tile and grout are often returned to their original or nearly their original color! (Click [amazingly clean tile & grout right before your eyes!](#))

General Care for All Ceramic Tile & Grout / Porcelain Tile & Grout

1. **For Grouted Floors:** Newly grouted surfaces should remain debris-free until fully cured. Remove grout haze. Keep grout dry and clean to prevent debris from embedding permanently.
2. **Track-off Mats:** Place at frequently used entrances (garage or back door). Vacuum regularly to prevent dirt buildup, as dirty mats lose effectiveness.
3. **Vacuuming is Key:** Dusting's ok, *but vacuuming is preferred* (removes dry soil more effectively). Use a soft-brush beater-bar (upright or disc), or a *felted wand* for canister, shop vac, or backpack vacuum.
4. **Neutral Floor Cleaner:** Use a **pH-neutral** mopping solution **7pH**. Avoid oils, strong disinfectants, or scented soaps that leave residues that travel. They also discolor grout. If you insist on a residue-laden cleaner, occasionally dry buff with a clean cloth, or rinse with plain, hot water to remove leftover cleaner.
5. **Avoid Floor Waxes:** Waxes are not suitable for ceramic, porcelain, or vinyl surfaces.
6. **Ventilation in Wet Areas:** Ensure proper ventilation in shower stalls and tub enclosures to prevent mildew and moisture buildup. Stone salts /soap scum are other common issues that require special attention. .
7. **Limit Acid-based Cleaners:** Commonly, household tile cleaners are acidic and can damage marble, stone & grout. Use sparingly, especially on all stone incl-thresholds, windowsills, and shower curbs.
8. **Steam Cleaning:** Periodically, steam your tile and grout. If grout looks dirty or soap scum builds up, it's time for a steam clean. Although DIY efforts help, nothing takes the place of the professional results we deliver.
9. **Protective Sealants:** Consider getting protective sealant (not wax) after steam cleaning. This clear coating helps surfaces.

Worn-out grout and caulk- address both before problems arise when these surfaces begin to fail. Caulk gets brittle, loses elasticity, and can trap moisture and mold. Missing areas lead to water leakage. If so, replace it.

Cracked or Missing Grout. Over time, grout weakens and begins to fail (pieces loosen & fall out). Then pieces. That's a hint it needs attention. We offer minor grout repairs and can arrange re-grouting.

Note: *Our steaming will pull out loose grout. We are not responsible for loose grout. It is considered a sign that the installation needs repair.*

Want Fresh, Perfect, Waterproof & Easy To Clean Grout?

Finally, a permanent solution that works, doesn't trap germs, is a cinch to clean, and lets you change color & erases embarrassing grout headaches!

Watch this video on our tile & grout page, it tells it all: [Professional grout color sealing. your grout headaches solved!](#)

Unlike store-bought versions, our product works and doesn't flake off. Makes cleanup a cinch and continually sanitizes. Our Color Seal is the perfect solution for many reasons! Don't plunge into expensive regrouting! For a one-time restoration investment, lasting solutions you will love! Truly better than grout replacement, for ease of care, either match the color you have or change to what you want for grout color that is waterproof and healthier!

Call today! 609.953.0472

Schedule a FREE tile & grout cleaning and optional color sealing estimate!

For a more comprehensive reference see our Downloadable [Stone and Tile Care Guide](#)