



## Caring For Your Ceramic Tile



Congratulations! Ceramic tile, the finest of architectural surfacing systems, is now yours to enjoy. When properly maintained, your ceramic tile installation will outlast the structure in which it's installed.

Naturally, we want you to get the most enjoyment out of your tile. So, we have put together these few suggestions for cleaning and maintenance. Please remember that *ceramic tile does not require sealants, waxes, or other recurrent special treatments*. Tile is among the easiest of surfaces to keep clean. Most dirt will not adhere to ceramic tile and mild detergent in water is usually adequate for removal of soil that clings.

### **PROCEDURES AND MATERIALS: Ordinary Use**

#### **Glazed Tile**

**Walls:** Wipe with clean, damp cloth or sponge. For soil that clings, use either a window-cleaning agent or an all-purpose liquid cleaner, spray cleaners for the stubborn spots.

**Floors:** Mop on mild solution of soapless detergent in water. Rinse thoroughly.

#### **Unglazed Tile**

*(ceramic mosaic, porcelain, quarry, pavers)*

**Walls:** Wipe with a clean, damp cloth or sponge. Use a diluted solution of soapless detergent for clinging dirt.

**Floors:** Mop on mild solution of soapless detergent in water. Rinse thoroughly.

### **HEAVY-DUTY USE, OR FOR THOROUGH CLEANING OF ACCUMULATED DIRT**

#### **Glazed Tile**

**Walls:** First try a concentrated all-purpose liquid cleaner. Then try a paste of scouring powder applied with a sponge, rubbing gently to avoid scratching the glaze; use a fiber scouring pad, not steel wool (see Note 6). Rinse and dry with a soft cloth.

**Floors:** First, try a concentrated solution of soapless detergent scrubbing vigorously with a brush, rinse and dry with soft cloth or sponge mop. Commercial tile cleaner may be needed for truly stubborn dirt in heavily trafficked areas.

#### **Unglazed Tile**

*(ceramic mosaic, porcelain, quarry, pavers)*

**Walls:** Use household scouring powder on a wet sponge, or all-purpose liquid cleaner on a household cleaning pad (see Note 6) Rinse and dry.

**Floors:** Use concentrated all-purpose cleaner, or paste of scouring powder mixed with water, brush or mop onto floor; allow to stand about five minutes, then scrub vigorously with scrubbing brush. Rinse and wipe dry.

### **WET AREAS (bathrooms, tub and shower enclosures, steam rooms, etc.)**

#### **Glazed Tile**

**Walls:** Use all-purpose cleaner on soft cloth or sponge, wet walls down and allow to stand for five minutes, rinse well. To remove mold and mildew stains, use a mildew stain remover following label directions, rinse well.

**Floors:** Soft cloth or sponge with all-purpose cleaner or medium-strength solution of soapless detergent. To remove mold and mildew stains, use a mildew stain remover following label directions, rinse well. To disinfect surfaces, use a solution of 3/4 cup chlorine bleach per gallon of water, let stand five minutes and rinse well.

#### **Unglazed Tile**

*(ceramic mosaic, porcelain, quarry, pavers)*

**Walls:** Sponge with strong solution of all-purpose cleaner, wet walls down, allow to stand for five minutes, rinse well. To remove mold and mildew stains, use a mildew stain remover following label directions, rinse well.

**Floors:** Scrub with all-purpose cleaner or medium-strength solution of soapless detergent. To remove mold and mildew stains, use a mildew stain remover following label directions, rinse well. To disinfect surfaces, use a solution of 3/4 cup chlorine bleach per gallon of water, let stand five minutes and rinse well.

*NOTE: If hard-water scum or deposit forms see Note 5.*

## **TERMS USED IN THIS FLYER**

Window Cleaning agents  
All-purpose cleaning agent or cleaning liquid  
All-purpose spray cleaner  
Soapless detergent  
Mold and mildew stain remover  
Scouring powders, mild abrasives liquid cleaners  
Cleaning or scrubbing pads  
Commercial tile and grout cleaners

Disinfectants

## **EXAMPLES**

Windex  
Mr. Clean; Top Job; Lestoil; Fantastik; PineSol  
Formula 409  
Spic 'n Span; Soilax; Oakite  
Tilex  
Comet; Ajax (some contain bleach); Soft Scrub  
Scotch Brite  
General purchase: CeramaSeal by Bostik;  
Hillyard Super Shine-all; Sanitizing cleaners— Hillyard  
Re-JuvNal; Hillyard CSP; Miracle Products; Mapei  
  
Chlorine bleach; Tilex

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## **NOTES**

1. Always rinse cleaned areas thoroughly and wipe dry. If a film appears, rinse again.
2. Do not use soap to clean ceramic tile, it forms a film which not only dilutes colors, but also can support the growth of bacteria and mildew.
3. Do not use phosphate detergents in areas where moisture is continually present (tub and shower enclosures) unless the grout is water-repellent (furan or epoxy resins, silicone rubber). Phosphate in detergent actually encourages subsequent growth of mildew and mold on cement and mosaic grouts.
4. Do not mix chlorine bleach with other cleaning supplies containing ammonia or acids such as vinegar. Hazardous gases will be released.
5. If hard-water scum forms, a 50-50 mixture of white vinegar and water may be useful to remove the deposit. This mixture may, however cause color-shift and surface cracking in certain kinds of glazed tile. Experiment first on a small area of the affected surface. The mixture will not harm most glazes nor the surfaces of unglazed tile if rinsed properly. Commercial tile cleaners are also available to remove hard-water deposits.
6. Steel wool should be used on tile only with the greatest care. Always use new pads, since rust will stain light-colored tile, and use only fine-textured pads to avoid scratching. The cleaning pads developed to scour adhesive surfaces like Teflon are safer to all kinds and grades of tile.

### **Remove these stains**

*Grease, oil and fats*

*Organic or inorganic dyes*

*Iodine*

*Mercurochrome*

*Blood*

*Coffee, tea, food colors, fruit  
juices or lipstick*

*Mold and mildew stains*

### **Use these stain removal agents**

Formula 409

Chlorine bleach, the sooner the better, 3/4 cup bleach per gallon of water

Ammonia (see Note 4)

Chlorine bleach (see Note 4)

Hydrogen peroxide, chlorine bleach or a chlorinated (bleaching)  
scouring powder.

Soapless detergent solution or all-purpose household cleaning liquid,  
then chlorine bleach.

Tilex