



THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF



Ceramic Tile Care & Maintenance

provided by



Ceramic Tile

Ceramic Tile is one of the most durable and maintenance-friendly surfaces you can choose for your walls and floors. With proper care 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 damp cloth or mop. Heavier cleaning may be needed periodically to refresh your tile, or to clean tile that has been neglected for a long period of time. No special or unusual treatment is ever required, and it never needs to be waxed or polished.

Routine Cleaning

Glazed tile walls in your home will easily keep their lovely look with simple care. Just wipe regularly with a damp cloth or sponge using a non-abrasive household cleaner. (Abrasives cleaners will cause scratching to shiny tile surfaces.) A routine cleaner such as AquaKleen™ is ideal for cleaning glossy tile surfaces. For **glazed tile floors**, vacuum regularly to remove dirt and gritty particles. Follow with a mop or sponge dampened with warm water. **Porcelain tile** can be most successfully cleaned by scrubbing with hot water and a mild detergent, then rinsed.

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 an all-purpose cleaner, but allow it to stand for about five minutes before rinsing and drying. Hardwater stains can be removed easily with Phosphoric Acid Substitute. Clean your shower regularly, dry with a towel after each use and leave the curtain or door open between showers.

Deep Cleaning

For high traffic areas or when tile has been neglected for a long time, intensive cleaning may be required. Glazed wall tile should be cleaned with a non-metallic pad, warm water and a scouring powder. Care should be exercised to not use cleaners that

contain colored dyes or bleach, as they may alter the appearance of the grout color. In common areas, a heavy duty cleaner such as Heavy Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner will provide excellent results. Refer to the chart below for additional cleaning suggestions.

	Grout Joints	Tile	Stone
Routine Cleaning	AquaKleen™	AquaKleen™	Stone Clean & Shine
Heavy Duty – Grease, Food Stains, Dirt, etc.	Grout Deep Clean	Heavy Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner	Stone Deep Clean
Grout Haze, Rust Stains, Mineral Deposits	Phosphoric Acid Substitute	Phosphoric Acid Substitute	
Surface Stains, Residues		NanoScrub®	NanoScrub®

Do's and Don'ts of Ceramic Tile

- Do not combine ammonia and household bleaches
- Do not use harsh cleaning agents (such as steel wool pads) which can scratch or damage the surface of your tile
- Do test scouring powders in a small area before using on tile
- Do read and follow label directions for all cleaners
- Do keep these instructions and refer to them when necessary
- Do contact Century Tile for advice on any cleaning problems or if you have any questions (703) 941-3005

A complete Tile & Stone Care & Maintenance Guide is available at your local Mosaic Design Center. Visit www.mosaicileco.com for locations and hours of operation.

Natural Stone

Natural stone bares nature's many complexities and shows large variations in its absorption, density and hardness. These traits have an important impact on how to protect and preserve the appearance and beauty of stone. Much of the damage caused to stone is the result of using improper cleaning products. A regular maintenance routine should be established for sealing and cleaning the stone installation. It is NOT recommended to use "all-purpose" cleaners that list stone as "one" of the many surfaces they clean. Use pH neutral cleaners.

Due to stone's absorbent nature, it will absorb liquids and oils, causing stains, discolorations or irreversible mineralogical chemical changes. These changes are greatly minimized by having the stone treated with a penetrating repellent or sealer. Sealing will be determined by overall use, traffic and cleaning protocol. The use of sealers is the sole decision and responsibility of the end user.



Regarding Grout and Caulk

It is very important that close attention be paid to the condition of grout and caulk in wet areas. All tub/shower wall tile is caulked any place where two walls come together (90° angles) as well as where the wall tile meets the shower pan or bath tub. These areas are caulked rather than grouted to allow for the normal movement that will occur between the two surfaces. Failure to perform regular inspections and maintenance of grout or caulk in wet areas can result in water damage.

Century Tile, Inc. warrants the original purchaser that it will repair or replace any loose, cracked, or otherwise damaged grout or tile which occurs from faulty installation for a period of one year from the settlement.

Century Tile, Inc. excludes from the above warrant, damage caused by the following:

- Objects dropped on tile
- Misuse or neglect
- Vandalism
- Fire or Flood

The original purchaser must notify Century Tile, Inc. immediately of any defects found. It is crucial to report any cracked grout or tile immediately and stop using the surface or shower area until repairs are made. Century Tile, Inc. will not be responsible for further damage that can occur due to negligent reporting and continued use of a damaged area. By nature, a void in the grouting is not uncommon due to normal settlement. Like caulking, grout should be periodically monitored and addressed. This would be considered normal homeowner maintenance after the first year.

CENTURY
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Regarding Grout Sealers

You may choose to seal the grout in your new home. Although the grout used in every home built by us is the highest quality latex modified and has a very low absorption rate, you may still feel the need to seal the grout. The grout will be fully cured at the time of settlement and ready for a sealer.

Many grout sealers are available in the market place today. Most sealers are not only very effective, but are user-friendly as well. These sealers are easily applied. As with any cleaner or sealer, read the entire label before using. Test a small area with a 24 hour cure time to determine the ease of application and desired results.

Your local Mosaic Design Center (several area locations – www.mosaicileco.com) carries a complete line of cleaners and sealers from the two leading manufacturers.

Century Tile, Inc. hopes you find these care and maintenance instructions useful in caring for the ceramic tile in your new home. Should you have any questions regarding the ceramic tile in your new home, please do not hesitate to contact us at (703) 941-3005 or www.centurytile.com.

