

Aftercare for Tile

LET EVERYTHING CURE

Patience is key, don't rush this part. If it's a floor installation, avoid walking on floor tile for at least 24 hrs. Wait 48-72 before heavy use or placing furniture. With a bathroom install, avoid water coming into contact with the tile until after 48-72 hours.

GROUT RELEASE AND SEALER

Protecting your tile installation is incredibly important for it to last for years to come. We recommend you seal your tile once before grouting (Grout Release) and after grout has set (Sealer). After this, it is recommended you re-seal your tile every 1-2 years, or as needed. You can test your tile to make sure it is sealed by conducting a water drop test. Simply splash some water on your tile, and if it beads off cleanly and doesn't absorb into the tile, your tile is properly sealed.

Sealer recommendations:

- **Fila Natural Look Penetrating Sealer.** The best heavy-duty sealer for porous and crackle tile finishes.
- **Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold.** The best general grout release and after-grout sealer.
- **Aqua Mix Porous Plus Sealer.** Recommended for floors and other high-traffic tiled areas.

REMOVE ANY GROUT HAZE CAREFULLY

Use a soft cotton cloth or microfiber towel after your grout has been sealed to remove any haze. If needed you can also use a grout haze remover (although a cloth should do the trick). Avoid abrasive pads as they can scratch tile or dull finishes.

GENERAL CLEANING + MAINTENANCE

For cleaning tile, we recommend using a mild dish washing soap with water and a non-abrasive sponge or rag. You can also use a neutral pH cleaner specified for tile. Avoid anything with vinegar and bleach.

Cleaner recommendations:

STONETECH stone & Tile Cleaner | MAPEI UltraCare Tile & Grout Cleaner | Groutastic pH-Neutral Cleaner

For tiled floors be sure to vacuum and/or sweep your floors regularly to protect the tile from sand and dirt. Also consider placing mats or rugs in high traffic areas to further prevent wear and tear over time. For backsplashes wipe down regularly (especially behind stoves) and use cleaner as needed.

HOW TO REMOVE WATER SPOTS AND MAINTAIN BATHROOM TILE

Water spots on tile are a result of mineral deposits (calcium and magnesium) in hard water building up on the surface of your tile. The water deposits are alkaline in nature, meaning they have a pH greater than 7. By using an acid with a pH less than 7 on the hard water deposits, they will soften and start to dissolve.

Because we do not recommend harsh cleaners for cleaning our tile, **distilled white vinegar and baking soda** are a perfect natural solution for this problem.

Step-by-step guide to cleaning water spots off your tile:

- ① Wet a sponge with distilled white vinegar.
- ② Wipe onto water spots on your tile.
- ③ Let sit for several minutes to soften the deposits.
- ④ Wipe more vinegar onto the area again.
- ⑤ Sprinkle baking soda onto area.
- ⑥ Wait until two substances react and fizz.
- ⑦ Dampen a sponge with water.
- ⑧ Scrub area to work baking soda into stains.
- ⑨ Rinse with clean water.
- ⑩ Repeat process if necessary, waiting longer between steps 3 and 4 if necessary.
- ⑪ When tiles are clean, dry with a towel to prevent minerals in rinse-water from forming new spots.
- ⑫ Going forward, make sure to wipe off any water on tiles immediately.