

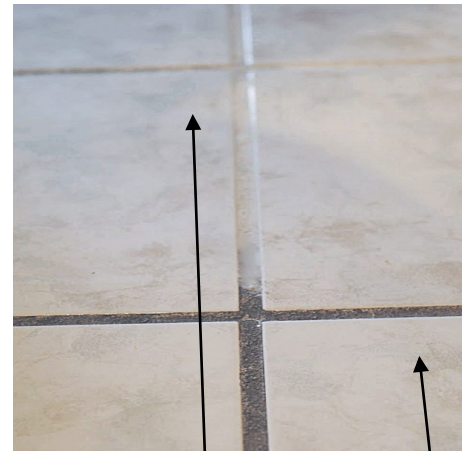
HOW TO CLEAN TILE

General Maintenance

Movement issues are the biggest challenge for tiles, but cleaning and maintenance come in a close second. Most ceramic tiles are stain-resistant, but they can still get topical stains from everyday use. Grout, on the other hand, is a different story. It can be porous and absorb stains, so it requires more regular cleaning and maintenance.

Grout Maintenance

Cement-based grouts are different from chemical-based grouts, such as epoxy or urethane. The cement-based grout is porous and absorbs contaminants. Resin-based grouts are more resistant. This means that liquids and contaminants can pass through the cement grout and become trapped inside, making it more difficult to keep the grout looking new.



Before Maintenance

After Maintenance

GROUT TIPS

- Pre-seal or use Grout Release when grouting a contrasting color.
- Upgrade if you can, a high-performance or chemical-based grout.
- Use a High-Quality Sealer and maintain it. My favorite is [HERE](#).
- Choose a gray grout for floors.

Tile Maintenance

Porcelain and glazed ceramic tiles are stain-resistant, but they can still look dirty. The problem is often residues from cleaners and other topical contaminants. These residues dry and adhere to the surface of the tile, attracting dirt and grime.

Removing these residues can be tricky requiring experimenting with different cleaning solutions to find one that will break down the problem. Once the residues and contaminants are removed, the tile should go back to its original finish.



TIPS

- Sweep or wipe down daily in areas.
- Higher traffic areas such as lobbies may need daily attention.
- Use tile-specific cleaners weekly. My favorite is [HERE](#).
- Use a stiff bristled plastic brush for problem areas.
- Always rinse thoroughly with **clean water**.
- Do **NOT** wax or put a coating on porcelain and ceramic tile.

Regular Maintenance

There is no magic button for cleaning and maintenance, but below are suggestions and a place to start.

- After installation seal with a **good sealer**. (Optional for porcelain tile, **REQUIRED** for stone tiles)
- Regular maintenance is critical, Sweep, wipe and mop the system regularly. (This is 100% tied to the use of the area, possibly daily.)
- Use a recommended tile and stone **cleaner**.
- Rinse thoroughly



TIPS

- Wipe up spills quickly.
- Use clean water. (When it gets hard to see the bottom of your bucket of mop water, change it.)
- Grout Release (especially when grouting a contrasting color)
- Use tile-specific cleaners according to the instructions.

Maintenance for Problems

There are too many unique situations to address, but here are the most common.

- Grout Residue on the tile – Know the type of grout before making a suggestion. Cement-Based grouts need an acidic **cleaner**. Resin based grouts need **degreaser** or **stripper**

Dirty Tile

- Different tiles hold contaminants differently. An abrasive tile will be much harder to clean. A flat or matte tile should be easier.
- What is making the tile dirty – left over cleaner, wax or traffic. You must match up the contaminant with the cleaner.

Suggested Process

(READ ALL MANUFACTURERS DIRECTIONS)

- Always test the cleaner in an inconspicuous area, to assure it does not adversely affect the tile or adjacent finishes
- Agitate with a stiff bristled plastic brush. For larger areas a orbital floor machine with a black pad or brush attachment
- Let the cleaner sit on the floor to “work”. The heavier the stain the longer it may need to sit.
- Agitate again
- Remove the slurry with LOTS of clean water and shop vacuum.
- Repeat as needed.