

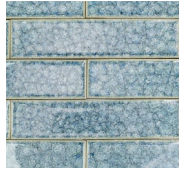
STAINING

**Question: Does ceramic or stone tile stain?**

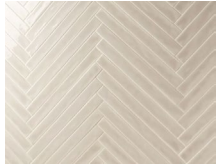
**Sealed Stone**– Carrara 2” Hexagon Polished Marble



**Unsealed Stone**– Nature Antique Pebble Pram Gray



**Crackled Glass Tile**– Roman 2x8 Brisk Blue Glass



**Unglazed Ceramic Tile**– Carolina Fog



**Porcelain Tile**– HexArt Pop Nero 8” Hexagon Matte

**Staining Materials****TEST PROCEDURES**

All tiles were laid out in an unconditioned space. The staining materials were added by dropper to each material and allowed to sit for 6-1/2 hours. Cleaned with just a sponge and clean water.



[Click here for a video of this test](#)

## Conclusions

Materials	Stain Penetration	Water	Oil	Soda	Vinegar	Red Wine	Notes
Sealed Stone	No	No Stain, Evaporated	No Stain	No Stain	Stained	No Stain	The sealer mostly did its job, with the vinegar only able to penetrate.
Unsealed Stone	Yes	No Stain, Evaporated	Stained	Stained	Stained	Stained	Use a sealer to protect stone, even though ONLY Oil was visible after cleaning.
Glazed Ceramic Tile	No	No Stain, Evaporated	No Stain	No Stain	No Stain	No Stain	Stain Resistant
Unglazed Ceramic Tile	Yes	No Stain, Evaporated	Stained	Stained	Stained	Stained	Suggest a sealer to protect an unglazed material
Porcelain Tile	No	No Stain, Evaporated	No Stain	No Stain	No Stain	No Stain	Stain Resistant
Crackled Glass Tile	Inconclusive	No Stain, Evaporated	Stained	No Stain	No Stain	No Stain	Only the oil had a visible stain even though all materials were absorbed.

If you are unsure about the porosity of your tile, or how well it absorbs wet materials, then I would suggest applying a sealer before installation. Always test an inconspicuous area of your tile and allow the test to dry to make sure that it doesn't affect the color and finish in a significant way. Also, do not allow for the sealer to pool and dry on the surface of your tile. Sealers come in a variety of finishes, from matte to glossy, so make sure that you select a sealer that will give you the desired look and slip resistance that you need if installing your tile on a floor.

Most glazed tiles and porcelains have a high-density finish that will keep most materials from absorbing and staining, BUT note that these materials are stain-resistant, NOT STAINPROOF. If you have natural stone, terrazzo, unglazed ceramic tile, or glass tile with a crackled or frosted finish, then you will NEED a sealer. Remember that this is for the tile and not the grout. The grout may need to be sealed, depending on the type.

### **Suggested Sealers**

### **Suggested Cleaners**