

TILE COUNCIL OF AMERICA

MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR CERAMIC TILE AND GROUT

MISSION STATEMENT:

TO WRITE A CONSUMER CARE GUIDE FOR CERAMIC TILE AND GROUT, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS FOR CERAMIC TILE AND GROUT.

INTRODUCTION:

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS DESIGNED FOR BASIC RESIDENTIAL MAINTENANCE, FOR CERAMIC TILE AND GROUT. THIS INFORMATION IS DESIGNED FOR MAINTAINING CERAMIC WALL TILE, FLOOR TILE, AS WELL AS TILE USED ON COUNTER TOPS. FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION PERTAINING TO YOUR SPECIFIC CERAMIC TILE INSTALLATION, CONSULT YOUR SUPPLIER OF YOUR CERAMIC TILE.

1) TREATING NEW TILE INSTALLATIONS

*CLEANING

*REMOVE LOOSE DIRT BY SWEEPING OR VACUUMING.

*PREPARE A CLEANING SOLUTION (USE NEUTRAL CLEANER DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR CERAMIC TILE). THESE TYPES OF CLEANERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM SUPPLIERS OF CERAMIC TILE.

*THOROUGHLY CLEAN THE CERAMIC TILE, INCLUDING THE GROUT JOINTS, FOLLOWING THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS.

*RINSE THOROUGHLY WITH CLEAN WATER AND ALLOW TO DRY. (NOTE: A SECOND RINSE WITH CLEAN WATER MAY BE NECESSARY, TO COMPLETELY REMOVE ALL OF THE CLEANING SOLUTION)

*SEALING

*FOR ADDED PROTECTION OF CEMENT BASED GROUT, A SEALER MAY BE APPLIED ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS. GROUT SEALERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SUPPLIER OF CERAMIC TILE. (NOTE: SEALERS ARE GENERALLY NOT INTENDED TO CHANGE THE APPEARANCE OF GROUT. ALWAYS TEST AN INCONSPICUOUS AREA IN ORDER TO VERIFY THE DESIRED RESULTS).

*CERTAIN TYPES OF TILE (SUCH AS QUARRY, SALTILLO, ETC.) REQUIRE SEALING. IF UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT YOUR SPECIFIC TILE REQUIRES SEALING, STRIPPING, AND RESEALING, CONTACT THE TILE SUPPLIER.

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2) RECOMMENDED CARE AND MAINTENANCE

*TILE

*DAILY

*(NOTE: GENERALLY CLEANING PRODUCTS THAT ARE MADE SPECIFICALLY FOR CLEANING TILE AND STONE OUT PERFORM PRODUCTS FOUND IN SUPERMARKETS OR HARDWARE STORES.)

*REMOVE SOIL WITH BROOM OR NON OILY DUST MOP OR VACUUM.

*DAMP MOP OR SPOT CLEAN AS NECESSARY USING PH-NEUTRAL CLEANER.

*RINSE CLEAN AREA WITH CLEAN WARM WATER.

*ALLOW TO DRY

*PERIODIC

*MAINTENANCE DOES NOT DIFFER FROM ROUTINE MAINTENANCE UNLESS A SEALER HAS BEEN APPLIED TO THE TILE. (SEE STRIPPING PROCEDURE BELOW).

*STUBBORN STAINS – FIBER OR NYLON SCRUBBING PADS MAY ASSIST IN REMOVING DIFFICULT STAINS (**DO NOT USE STEEL WOOL**).

*GROUT

*ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

*GROUT MAINTENANCE DOES NOT DIFFER FROM TILE CARE. (NOTE: FOR STUBBORN GROUT STAINS AGGITATION WITH A NYLON PAD OR BRUSH AND A RECOMMENDED CLEANING SOLUTION WILL ASSIST IN REMOVING OF STAINS).

*PERIODIC

*WHEN THE APPEARANCE OF THE GROUT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE SPECIALIZED PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR TILE DISTRIBUTOR. (NOTE: SPECIFIC PRODUCT INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED.)