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Tile Care Information
ESSENTIAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR TILE
Cleaning Procedures & Recommendations

General Cleaning of Porcelain & Ceramic Tile: The type of product may vary depending on the tile application and use.

- **Glazed Tile:** Glazed tile products should be cleaned with an all-purpose, household or commercial neutral cleaner, non-oil based. The entire area should be cleaned and scrubbed through the use of a cotton mop, cloth, sponge, or non-metallic brush. The entire area should be rinsed with clean water to remove any cleaning solution residue. Remember that you should sweep or vacuum floor areas prior to cleaning to remove any dust or debris. Routine cleaners should never contain hazardous or polluting products including, but not limited to acids or ammonia. Acids can damage the grout and the glazed surface of the tile, and ammonia can discolor the grout.
- **Unglazed Tile:** Unglazed tile should be cleaned using a solution of water and soapless detergent or concentrated tile cleaners that have a neutral pH for safe regular use. The product chosen should also be compatible with cleaning the grout joints at the same time. These cleaners are better suited at removing grease, oils and normal spills from unglazed products.
- **Glass Tiles:** For routine cleaning, use any non-abrasive cleaning compound recommended for either glass or tile.
- **As a quick clean-up between more rigorous cleanings mopping or wiping with a damp cloth is adequate.**

Countertops and Vanities: Use a pH-balanced cleaner to keep surfaces clean from everyday soils and stains.

Floor Surfaces: Vacuum or dust frequently using a clean non-treated dry dust mop. Sand, dirt, and grit may scratch your tile or build-up on your grout joint leading to discoloration. Damp mop your tile floor with a diluted solution of neutral cleaner. Mats or area rugs inside and outside an entrance will help minimize the potential damage from these particles.

Bath and Other Wet Areas: In the bath, or other wet areas, using a squeegee after each use can help minimize the build-up of everyday soils and stains.

Grout Care: We recommend you apply a sealer for maximum stain protection, initially and from time to time.

Do's & Don'ts

- Do sweep, dust or vacuum surfaces regularly to remove loose soil and dust.
- Do test scouring powders on a small area first.
- Do use a sealer on grout joints.
- Do cover furniture and table legs with protectors to guard your floor against scratching.
- Do use mats or area rugs inside and outside an entrance to help minimize the potential damage.
- Don't use ordinary household cleaners, as you may degrade the sealer that was applied to the grout to protect against stains.
- Don't use acid, alkaline or ammoniated cleaners or bleach for routine maintenance.

- Don't use wax cleaners, oil-based detergents or sealants to maintain your tile.
- Don't use harsh cleaning aids like steel wool pads or scouring pads containing metal.

What To Do When Spills Occur

Etching: Substances that are highly acidic, such as orange juice, coffee, vinegar, wine, tomato-based products, mustard and many soft drinks will most likely leave an "etch," a chemical reaction that may leave a dull area or mark. Properly sealing will give you time to wipe up a spill to avoid staining, but it cannot prevent etching.

Food Spills: Scoop up food with a plastic spoon. Blot with a dry white cloth. Spray the area with a neutral cleaner and wipe off excess with a clean cloth.

Liquid Spills: Blot up the excess with a clean, dry cloth. Then clean the area with a pH-balanced cleaner and wipe off excess with a clean cloth.

Mud: Let the mud stain dry completely. Remove dried mud with a soft plastic nylon brush. Spray affected area with a neutral cleaner and wipe off excess with a clean cloth.

Cleaning and Restoring Old Ceramic, Porcelain Tile & Grout: We recommend using an acidic cleaner designed for this surface. This will remove tough soap scum, hard water deposits, grout haze, and efflorescence. If you have heavy grease and oil stains, pre-clean using an alkaline cleaner formulated for ceramic and porcelain tile. After restoring your tile and grout, remember to seal with an impregnating sealer to guard against future stains.

Regular care and maintenance will keep your tile floors looking their very best for years to come!

Call your professional tile supplier, installer or a restoration specialist for problems that appear too difficult to handle.

We carry a wide variety of stone and tile specific cleaners and sealers here at Harkey Tile & Stone.