

## Care and Maintenance for Your Ceramic or Porcelain Tile

Ceramic tile is one of the most durable and maintenance friendly surfaces you can choose for your walls, floors, countertops, etc. With proper care & minimal maintenance, it will retain its original beauty and luster for many years. Generally, all that is necessary to keep your tile looking as good as new is a quick wipe with a clean damp cloth or mop to help prevent buildup of soil, grease, residue, soap detergents, sealers, dampness, liquids, etc. Prompt cleanup of spills and regular cleaning will also aid in keeping your ceramic tile surfaces looking their best.

If a cleaner is necessary, Eleganza Tile recommends the use of low VOC (volatile organic compound), neutral pH, non-hazardous, and non-polluting products. The type of cleaning product may vary depending on the tile application use and should be grout compatible. 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. The entire area should be cleaned and scrubbed with clean water first, if a cleaning solution is necessary then apply 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. For glazed tile floors, sweep or vacuum regularly to remove dirt and gritty particles. Follow with a mop or sponge dampened with a neutral pH cleaner. If a cleaner is used, be sure the surface is rinsed thoroughly with clean water and dried.

Tiled surfaces in your bathroom may require a more thorough routine cleaning because of a build-up of soap scum, body oils or hard-water stains. Use a clean, damp cloth, or sponge with a neutral pH cleaner, allowing it to stand about five minutes before rinsing and drying. Specialty bathroom cleaners may also be used (always test first). Clean shower regularly with the appropriate tile and stone cleaner. Dry with a towel after each use and leave curtain or door open between showers to allow for maximum ventilation and moisture escape. A multipurpose spray cleaner, which removes soap scum, hard water deposits, and mildew designed for everyday use, can be used on wall tile areas in residential baths and showers. Unglazed, Textured or Uneven tile should be cleaned routinely with concentrated tile cleaners that have a neutral pH for safe regular use, substituting a soft scrub brush or white nylon scrub pad for the mop or sponge will quicken the cleaning process. These cleaners are better suited at removing grease, oils and normal spills from unglazed products. Again, these products will vary depending on the application, amount of traffic and the use. The product chosen should also be compatible with cleaning the grout joints at the same time.

Highly polished tile surfaces should be polished dry with a soft absorbent cloth after cleaning to eliminate the buildup of hard-water residue and maintain the high polished finish. A non-abrasive, neutral pH cleaner can be used (abrasive cleansers could cause scratching to shiny tile).

**Glass tile** - routine care & maintenance use a glass cleaner and a soft lint-free cloth for cleaning glass tile. To remove soap scum or water deposits a minimally abrasive cleanser and soft bristle brush can be used.

### A FEW DO'S AND DON'TS OF CERAMIC, PORCELAIN TILE

- Do read and follow label directions for all cleaners and sealers
- Always do a small test with sealers & cleaners to insure desired results
- Do use a sealer on grout joints if continuous staining is a problem; except for 100% solid epoxy grout
- Do use only non-abrasive cleaning compound or formula that is recommended for both ceramic/porcelain or glass tile
- Do not combine ammonia and household bleaches
- Do not use harsh cleaning agents such as steel wool pads or strong acids, which can scratch or damage the surface of your tile.