

Tile Care & Maintenance

Important to Note

Andova Tiles does not manufacture any products used for cleaning or maintaining tiles. As such, the following is to be used as a general guide. While these are best practices, the instructions provided may not be applicable to your specific product and installation.

Always check with the adhesive and cleaning product manufacturers for proper use of their products. Prior to beginning any care or maintenance regimen, consult with a qualified tile expert or sales professional if you are unsure or have any questions about your specific product or system assembly.

Whenever trying new cleaning methods or materials, always test a small area that is out of sight. This will determine if the cleaning product and method you chose will have any adverse effects to the surface of your tile or grout. Always reference SDS sheets for proper handling and disposal of chemicals as well as safety protocols to protect both people and the surrounding environment.

Immediately contact a professional if there is suspected damage or unexpected results. Some aesthetic changes to tiles may be reversed if attended to quickly and with the proper methods but is not guaranteed.

Porcelain & Ceramic Tiles

Glazed Tiles

Tiles that are kiln fired and have a glazed surface finish will naturally be impervious to water, dirt, and debris. Although many of these products are extremely resistant to chemicals and scratching, it is important to follow proper cleaning and maintenance protocols to increase the longevity of the product.

Unglazed & Partially Glazed Tiles

Unglazed and partially glazed products are unique because they don't have a full glaze covering the surface of the tile, and the color and finish is achieved by the actual body of the tile showing through. Depending on your tile construction and recommended installation instructions, you may or may not have to seal these products periodically to maintain best tile performance. Products that do not require sealing in this category, including many polished double-loaded and through-body tiles, have many advantages in high traffic areas, especially when it comes to surface wear over time. If you are unsure if your Andova tile requires sealing or not, just ask us!

Cleaning Recommendations for Porcelain & Ceramic Tiles

- Always vacuum, sweep, or brush away dust and dirt from the surface prior to introducing any water or cleaning products. Tiles can also be gently wiped with a clean, dry cloth.
- Warm water along with mild detergents or a pH neutral tile cleaning solution can be applied using a soft pad applicator, sponge, or mop. Follow cleaning manufacturer's instructions closely.

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- For tougher embedded stains, use of a scouring pad, or firm bristle brush may be necessary. Always do a test area prior to introducing chemicals, and/or more abrasive methods.
- Rinse the tiles as needed with clean water to remove any left-over dirt, detergent, or residue.
- Water extraction with a wet vacuum, or cloth is recommended to eliminate water spots and possible streaking, as well as to prevent any dirty water from settling in the grout joints.

Beware of Chemical Treatments

Excessive use of chemical cleaners may cause damage to the surface of the tile and grout over time. When using harsher chemicals such as industrial cleaners, degreasers, acids, detergents that are not pH neutral, ammonia, bleach, turpentine, paint thinners, or acetone, it is imperative to do a test area first that is out of sight to ensure no damage will be done to the finish of the product. In some cases, use of these chemicals may etch, dull, or oxidize the surface of the tile, and potentially destroy the integrity of the grout.

Beware of Ink & Dye

Although many tiles may pass chemical resistance testing, the method does not include all pigments, chemicals, and dyes. Avoid exposing tiles to permanent ink, hair dye, enamels, or any other types of chemicals that are known to stain surfaces.

Removing Nano Coatings

Unglazed polished products typically have a nano coating to protect the surface from scratching. When necessary, or if compromised during installation, nano coatings can be removed entirely using a

nano scrub paste. The nano scrub will not remove the polish from the product but will remove any cloudiness that was left behind in the nano coating. As with any treatment, test on an extra tile or out-of-the-way area before commencing work.

Tile Sealer

The use of a sealer may be necessary to prevent water, dirt, and debris from embedding itself into the surface of the tile. Even tiles that are considered impervious may benefit from periodic sealing as it can aid in day-to-day cleaning depending on the final use and application of the tile especially when using products that have a textured surface, matte finish, unglazed and partially glazed micro pores, or crackled glazes. Follow sealing manufacturer's instructions on frequency of resealing as it will vary based on the product used, cleaning protocols, and type of wear your tiles are subject to.

Grout Sealer

Grout should typically be sealed once it has cured, post installation. However, some grouts that are fortified with additives, as well as those made from quartz, polymers, or epoxy may not need to be sealed as they have inherent stain resistant characteristics. It is always important to follow the grout manufacturer's recommendations as well as the grout sealer's instructions for best results. Use of harsh chemicals such as bleach, and methods such as steam cleaning, may have adverse effects on the tile and grout you selected, and can permanently damage the surface finish of your tiles.

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Glass Tiles & Mosaics

Glass mosaics are one of the most durable and functional tiles that have been used for centuries. Their impervious nature lends itself to easy cleaning and maintenance, and can work well for showers, pools, and wet applications if indicated.

All glass tiles can be cleaned the same regardless of the style or backing material, and care should be taking to avoid abrasive tools or chemicals to reduce the risk of scratching the surface.

Please Note: If your glass tile is **foil backed**, it should not be used for shower floors, submerged, or exposed to excessive amounts of UV light, as those types of exposure may cause discoloration.

Cleaning Recommendations for Glass Tiles & Mosaics

- Always vacuum, sweep, or brush away dust and dirt from the surface prior to introducing any water or cleaning detergents. This can help deter any potential scratching of your glass tile surface.
- Tiles can also be gently wiped with a clean, dry cloth, taking care not to use too much pressure to avoid scratching the tile.
- Warm water along with mild detergents, or a pH neutral tile cleaning solution can be applied using a soft pad applicator, sponge, or mop. Follow cleaning product manufacturer's instructions closely.
- Rinse the tiles as needed with clean water to remove any left-over dirt, detergent, or residue.

- Water extraction with a wet vacuum, or cloth is recommended to eliminate water spots and possible streaking, as well as to prevent any dirty water from settling in the grout joints.

Beware of Abrasive Cleaners & Tools on Glass Tiles

Any cleaning products or tools containing sand, quartz, steel wool, rough scouring pads, firm bristle brushes, and metal scrapers, may be harmful to the surface of the tile when applied with too much force. The glass tile surface can scratch if these types of items are used.

Glass & Multi-Surface Cleaners

A glass or multi-surface spray cleaner designed for glass can be used to keep the surface clean and clear of water spots and streaks. Be sure to follow the cleaning product manufacturer's guidelines for proper application and clean up.

Grout Sealers for Glass Tile Installations

Grout should typically be sealed once it has cured, post install. However, some grouts that are fortified with additives, as well as those made from quartz, polymers, or epoxy may not need to be sealed as they have inherent stain resistant characteristics. It is always important to follow the grout manufacturer's recommendations, as well as the grout sealer's instructions, for best results. Use of harsh chemicals such as bleach, and methods such as steam cleaning, may have adverse effects on the tile and grout you selected, and can permanently damage the surface finish of your tiles.

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Natural Stone Tiles

Natural stone tiles display an aesthetic beauty that cannot be easily replicated and offer a truly unique design with each tile. These types of products require a little more care than products that are more impervious to water absorption, etching, and staining. However, with proper attention to sealing and cleaning protocols, natural stone tiles and mosaics can last a lifetime.

Cleaning Recommendations for Natural Stone

- Always vacuum, sweep, or brush away dust and dirt from the surface prior to introducing any water or cleaning detergents. Tiles can also be gently wiped with a clean, dry cloth.
- Warm water along with mild detergents, or a pH neutral tile cleaning solution can be applied using a soft pad applicator, sponge, or mop. Follow cleaning manufacturer's instructions closely.
- For tougher embedded stains, use of a scouring pad, or firm bristle brush may be necessary. Always do a test area prior to introducing chemicals, and/or more abrasive methods.
- Rinse the tiles as needed with clean water to remove any left-over dirt, detergent, or residue.
- Water extraction with a wet vacuum, or cloth is recommended to eliminate water spots and possible streaking, as well as to prevent any dirty water from settling in the grout joints.

Beware of Abrasive Cleaners & Tools on Natural Stone

Any cleaning products or tools containing sand, quartz, steel wool, rough scouring pads, firm bristle brushes, and metal scrapers, may be harmful to the surface of the tile when applied with too much force. Aggressive cleaning can permanently scratch your stone and its finish so care should be taken.

Beware of Ink & Dye on Natural Stone

It is always a good idea to assume that your natural stone tile is inherently porous, despite the general characteristics of your stone type, or if a sealer has been applied. This means that it can be permanently affected by exposure to pigments, chemicals, and dyes. Avoid exposing your natural stone to permanent ink, hair dye, enamels, or any other types of chemicals that are known to stain surfaces.

Beware of Chemical Treatments on Natural Stone

Excessive use of chemical cleaners may cause damage to the surface of your natural stone tile over time. When using harsher chemicals such as industrial cleaners, degreasers, acids, detergents that are not pH neutral, ammonia, bleach, turpentine, paint thinners, or acetone, it is imperative to do a test area first that is out of sight to ensure no damage will be done to the finish of the product. In some cases, use of these chemicals may etch, dull, or oxidize the surface of the tile.

Tile Sealer for Natural Stone

The unique nature of natural stone tiles contributes to both its beauty and its potential to have imperfections on its surface. You should always consider the use of a sealer as necessary to prevent water, dirt and debris from embedding itself into the tile surface.

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Even natural stones that are considered impervious may benefit from periodic sealing as it can aid in day-to-day cleaning depending on the final use and application of the tile especially when using products that have a textured surface. Follow the sealer manufacturer's instructions on frequency of resealing as it will vary based on the product used, cleaning protocols, and type of wear your tiles are subject to in their environment.

Grout Sealer for Natural Stone Tiles

Grout should typically be sealed once it has cured, post install. However, some grouts that are fortified with additives, as well as those made from quartz, polymers, or epoxy may not need to be sealed as they have inherent stain resistant characteristics. It is always important to follow the grout manufacturer's recommendations, as well as the grout sealer's instructions, for best results. Use of harsh chemicals such as bleach, and methods such as steam cleaning, may have adverse effects on the tile and grout you selected, and can permanently damage the surface finish of your natural stone tiles.

Have questions about your tile?

Contact Us:

info@andovatiles.com

Visit Us Online:

andovatiles.com

Fall in Tile Love

We know that loving your space means loving everything that you put into it, especially when it comes to your home. Choosing a tile can be a long-term commitment so we make sure to create ways for online shoppers to emotionally connect while they explore and purchase our products. From creating warm and inviting visual stories to providing an elevated level of customer service, both our business partners and online shoppers are excited to fall in tile love over and over again!

About Our Tile

Tile comes in all shapes and sizes, just like people! Our mission is to offer an amazing variety of the latest styles and timeless classics so that everyone can find their true tile love. We source from all over the world to bring you the trends happening both today and tomorrow. Each and every tile has that special something that will put a smile on your face every time that you walk into your home.

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