

# Trinidad Tile and Granite™ - Care and Maintenance

## Cleaning Porcelain and Ceramic

Porcelain and ceramic tiles are among the easiest flooring materials to clean. Due to their impenetrable glazes, their surfaces are resistant to water, dirt, chemicals, oil, debris, and even germs and bacteria.

It is highly recommended to sweep or vacuum the surface prior to washing it with water to prevent the tile from becoming muddy or leaving a residue after cleaning. Although the glaze of a tile is resistant to staining it is not always chemical proof and in some cases may discolor if exposed to certain chemicals for extended periods of time.

### *Always Remember:*

Do not clean porcelain tile flooring with ammonia or with cleaners that contain bleach and/or acid. Acid and ammonia based cleaners may modify grout color and stability.

Use a cleaner that is pH neutral. This ensures cleaning will not harm your grout or surrounding surfaces.

Do not use wax, oil-based, abrasive cleaners, or sealants.

Use rugs at entrances to prevent dirt and grit from being tracked onto the tile flooring from outdoors.

Tiles are scratch resistant but not scratch proof.

Do not use steel wool pads to remove tough debris or stains. Steel wool may scratch your tiles and loose steel particles may eventually create rust stains in the grout over time.

## Standard Cleaning of Glazed Products

For glazed tiles, use the following instructions for general cleaning:

1. Sweep or vacuum loose dirt and dust from the floor. On textured surfaces sweep in multiple directions. First follow the direction of the tile, and then sweep diagonally. This will ensure the removal of all foreign material that might be residing in the textured surface. For wall surfaces tile can be gently wiped down with a clean, dry cloth or rag.
2. Mop the floor with a mild detergent, degreaser, or tile cleaning solution. For textured floors, the use of a medium bristle brush is recommended. A sponge or clean cloth can be used to apply the cleaning agent to wall surfaces.
3. Rinse the tile thoroughly with clean water to remove any left-over detergents.
4. Drying with a clean cloth or rag is recommended to increase the shine and to prevent water spots.

## Cleaning Metal Tile

Some of the most popular metal tiles you see on the market today are either made from solid metal, coated in metal glazes, or cast from polymers that are fused with real metal particles. Due to the presence of actual metal, careful attention must be paid when cleaning these unique surfaces.

Stainless steel cleaners for appliances tend to work well on stainless steel tiles as they are typically made from similar grades of steel. However, it is important to note that not all metal tiles are made from stainless steel and as such a pH neutral cleaner or water with a mild soap solution can be used.

It is not recommended that any abrasive cleaners or scouring pads be used to clean metal as it may scratch the surface and cause the tiles to oxidize. It is also important to keep the tiles dry and away from heat as much as possible.

Be sure to follow grout manufacturer's instructions on cleaning and sealing grout properly. Grout cleaners containing bleach or ammonia may be harmful to the metal if not applied properly.

## Standard Cleaning of Metal Products

For metal tiles, use the following instructions for general purpose cleaning:

1. Wipe loose dirt or grease from the surface. An untreated paper towel or cloth is recommended.
2. Wash the surface with a mild detergent, degreaser, or cleaning solution (do not use abrasive cleaners or abrasive applicators).
3. Rinse the tile thoroughly with clean water if a detergent is used.
4. Drying with a clean cloth or paper towel is recommended to prevent water spots.

## Cleaning Glass Tile

There are many cleaning solutions on the market today suitable for cleaning glass tile. In most cases a standard glass or multi-surface cleaner applied with a cloth or paper towels will work well.

Do not use any abrasive cleaners or scouring pads to clean glass as they may scratch the surface.

## Standard Cleaning of Glass Products

For glass tiles, use the following instructions for general purpose cleaning:

1. Wipe loose dirt or grease from the surface. An untreated paper towel or cloth is recommended.
2. Wash the surface with a mild detergent, degreaser, or glass cleaning solution (do not use abrasive cleaners or abrasive applicators).
3. Rinse the tile thoroughly with clean water if a detergent is used.
4. Drying with a clean cloth or paper towel is recommended to increase the shine and to prevent water spots or streaks.

## Cleaning Natural Stones

Natural stone is a very durable surface when protected and maintained properly and is widely used in residential and commercial applications.

*Always Remember:*

Sweep or vacuum your floors regularly.

Protect your stone from sand and grit as floors may scratch from dirt and debris.

Be careful with acidic foods and drinks (lemonade, orange juice, etc.) as they may etch certain stones.

Never use any cleaners that contain ammonia, acids, or bleach.

Tend to spills quickly. Sealers do not prevent 100% of damages caused by spills.

Never apply wax or acrylics to the surface as they may damage the stone.

## **Standard Cleaning of Natural Stone**

For stone tiles, use the following instructions for general purpose cleaning:

1. Sweep or vacuum loose dirt and dust from the floor. For wall surfaces tile can be gently wiped down with a clean, dry cloth or rag.
2. Mop the floor with a mild detergent, degreaser, or tile cleaning solution. A sponge or clean cloth can be used to apply the cleaning agent to wall surfaces.
3. Rinse the tile thoroughly with clean water to remove any left-over detergents.
4. Drying with a clean cloth or rag is recommended to increase the shine and to prevent water spots.

*Sealing all natural stone is highly recommended.*

It is suggested that a breathable penetrating sealer be applied before and after grouting. This treatment provides an excellent defense against staining and may be desirable in high traffic areas. Follow the sealing manufacturer's guidelines for recommendations on how often a sealer should be reapplied.

## **Trinidad Tile and Granite Contact Info**

All inquiries concerning this statement and the Site in general may be sent to Customer Support

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