



## TILE DOCTOR GUIDE TO:

### CLEANING, SEALING and MAINTAINING PORCELAIN TILES

#### WHY YOU MAY NEED TO TREAT PORCELAIN TILES:

Porcelain tiles are modern, extremely durable, full-bodied ceramics that provide a long-lasting, easily maintained flooring material suitable for domestic, commercial and industrial use.

A porcelain tile, unlike a glazed ceramic tile, is made of the same material right through the body of the tile. There is no glaze that can be worn away, and therefore porcelain tiles are usually far more durable than glazed tiles.

Porcelain tiles are available as polished and as unpolished tiles. The shine on a polished porcelain tile is achieved by means of polishing with special diamond abrasives and is not the result of a glass-like glaze on the tile's surface; porcelain tiles tend to behave differently from glazed tiles.

The porosity of most Porcelain tiles is very low, most falling in the range of 0.03 to 0.1 percent, but some porcelain tiles can absorb stains into their upper layers and therefore need to be treated to prevent staining.

Fortunately, treatment is very easy, provided the tile is handled correctly from the moment of laying.

If the porcelain tile is intended for use in areas where there is a high risk of staining, particularly with red wine or fruit juice, then professional advice should be sought by calling Genkem's Consumer Care Line on 0800 202 655.

#### LAYING THE TILE:

- Porcelain tiles should be laid in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, ensuring proper grout gap, sufficient expansion joints, and using proper tile adhesives for laying.
- Care must be taken not to get adhesive onto the face of the tile, because the adhesives often contain acrylic resins that are resistant to removal by most cleaning methods.
- Remember that the tile may be susceptible to stains, especially from juices and greases, so do not allow people to eat their lunch or wheel oily wheelbarrows over the tiles, etc. Beware of the painters!
- The tiles may be pre-sealed with Tile Doctor Marble & Stone Sealer before laying if you are very concerned about the possibility of staining during laying.

#### GROUTING:

- The tiles may be grouted with a plain or coloured grout. Be careful when using coloured grouts because these can sometimes stick onto the tile and leave a residue that will be very difficult to remove.
- Epoxy grouts may also be used where a more durable and impervious grout is required.
- Whilst grouting, care should be taken to remove excess grout from the face of the tile using a damp sponge.

#### CLEANING AFTER GROUTING:

This step is vitally important because it will determine the ultimate appearance of the tiles.

- Make up a solution of 1 part of Tile Doctor Lift Off for Grout & Cement stain to 20 parts of clean water. (A stronger solution with 10 parts of water to 1 part of product may be used if there is a lot of grout residue.) Do not use a stronger solution.

- Mask off any metal objects that may be exposed to the Lift Off.
- Using a plastic watering can fitted with a rose, apply the Lift Off solution evenly across the tiles. The rate of application should be about 1 litre of diluted Lift Off for each 8 square metres of tile.
- Before the diluted Lift Off has dried, begin vigorous scrubbing with a stiff-bristled brush. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection when handling the product, and avoid splashing onto surrounding materials.
- Scrub until the area seems clean and then rinse by applying large amounts of water and vacuuming, if possible.
- Allow the tiles to dry completely and examine the floor to make sure that all traces of grout have been removed.
- Allow the tile and the grout to dry completely before sealing.
- The tile dries rapidly, but the grout may take up to 4 days to dry (longer in wet weather.)

#### **SEALING PORCELAIN WITH MARBLE & STONE SEALER:**

- Tile Doctor Marble & Stone Sealer is the best sealer for porcelain and will prevent most stains from occurring.
- Once the tile is clean and dry enough to seal, follow the directions on the Marble & Stone Sealer container. Use a clean, absorbent cloth. Apply Tile Doctor Marble & Stone Sealer to the tile, evenly; make sure that the sealer uniformly covers the whole surface. Do not allow sealer to pool or form puddles on the surface of the tile.
- Do not over-apply because this will lead to streakiness when the sealer has dried. If streaks occur, they may be easily removed by gently buffing with a clean cloth.
- Usually a single application is all that is needed and the floor may be walked on as soon as it has dried properly ( $\pm 4$  hours).
- Best results are obtained if the treated areas are kept dry and free from staining materials for at least 72 hours. Do not wash the surfaces for 7 days after sealing as full chemical resistance is only achieved after 7 days.

#### **COVERAGE:**

- 10-12m<sup>2</sup>/lt, depending on surface porosity.

#### **MAINTENANCE:**

- Porcelain sealed with Marble & Stone Sealer should be maintained by regularly cleaning with diluted Tile Doctor Tile Tonic (1 part of product to between 50 and 100 parts of water.)
- Occasionally, depending on traffic and maintenance methods, a reapplication of sealer may be necessary to maintain the seal. The tile should be properly cleaned before applying more sealer.

#### **CAUTION & TIPS**

- Do not seal tiles until at least 7 days after grouting.
- Do not apply sealer in hot sunlight.
- Do not seal damp tiles and do not allow water to lie on the surface of the sealed tile for at least a day after sealing.
- Clean equipment with Thinners then Detergent before the sealer has dried.
- Maintain the floor by cleaning daily with Tile Doctor Tile Tonic.

#### **BLOTCHY OR STREAKY EFFECTS:**

The tiles were not cleaned properly before sealing. Please make sure the tiles are clean before sealing.

- Over- application of sealer – streakiness will occur if too much sealer is applied. The streaky areas will usually matt down after a little foot traffic, but if the application was particularly bad, the streaks may be even out by buffing with a dry cloth.

#### **STORAGE**

- Keep product out of the reach of children, pets and uninformed persons.
- Store in a cool, dry place 8°C-25°C away from heat, flames and sparks.
- Keep container closed when not in use, to prevent drying out. Check the product for any leakages.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- Caution: This product contains ingredients that are hazardous.
- In case of accidental contact with eyes or skin, wash the affected area with plenty of water and seek medical advice.
- This product is harmful if swallowed. Do not induce vomiting; call your local poison centre or doctor.

**MANUFACTURERS OF GENKEM \* NOVA \* BOURNE \* SANDTEX \* TILE DOCTOR  
MEMBER OF THE QUALICHEM GROUP**

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**DIY Problem ... Ask Genkem**

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