

# PARAMOUNT

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F L O O R I N G

## Porcelain Care & Maintenance

### Initial Cleaning During Installation

As with any flooring material, the most important step in the care and maintenance of your porcelain floor is the initial cleaning. The single most important step in caring for your porcelain floor is the complete removal of setting material, grout residue, and/or any construction residue from the surface of the tiles before they have a chance to dry. In most cases, porcelain tiles can be cleaned successfully by scrubbing the installation with a “neutral detergent cleaner” followed by a thorough rinsing. If a grout residue still remains, rinse further, cleaning the tile several times with clean water, to be certain you have removed traces of grout residue from the surface of the tiles. Grout manufacturers have printed detailed instructions for the proper cleaning of grout residues available. The grout manufacturer’s directions should be followed if a grout film is present on the surface of the porcelain tiles. Once the initial cleaning process has been completed, porcelain tiles just need to be swept or vacuumed and damp mopped with a “neutral detergent cleaner” followed by a thorough rinsing.

### Special Grouting Precautions

It is recommended that a test patch be done prior to grouting the installation to determine if contaminations of grout pigment will occur on the tile – especially when using light colored tiles or polished tiles that are to be grouted with a dark contrasting colored grout, or when dark colored tiles are to be grouted with a light colored grout. If discoloration does not occur on the surface of the tile, then proceed with grouting. If discoloration does occur, it is recommended to request from the grout manufacturer a proper procedure for the protection of this surface.

### Proper Care During The Construction Phase

Like any other finished material, porcelain tiles are viewed as a finish flooring material. We strongly recommend that a protective cover such as cardboard, construction paper, plywood, and/or other covering which will protect the porcelain tile during the initial construction phase be used. The use of plastic as a cover is not recommended, since plastic becomes slippery when construction residue comes in contact with the plastic. In addition, plastic has a tendency to delay the natural curing process of the thin-set and/or grout.

### Glazed, Matte, Honed and Textured Tiles

Porcelain tile products do not require the use of sealers, surface coating or waxes on the Glazed, Matte, Honed and Textured porcelain tiles. In fact, the surface of the matte series is so smooth, and non-absorbing, that Stain Test results show that Paramount Flooring’s porcelain tiles are virtually stain resistant. Applying a sealer or surface coating to matte finish porcelain tiles will only add unnecessary steps to the overall maintenance program – without enhancing the overall appearance of the tile. The use of sealers on impervious porcelain paver tiles will turn a low-maintenance tile into labor intensive high-maintenance tile, and in most cases, these applied surface sealers on matte porcelain tiles change and/or diminish the slip resistance of the porcelain tile.

Please note:

– Paramount Flooring highly recommends the use of low voc, non-hazardous and non-polluting products for the cleaning and maintenance of tile and grout products.

– Acid washing is rarely recommended. Acid or acid based cleaners should not be used to clean a grout residue. Some acid can burn non-epoxy or cementitious grouts and leave a white film that is almost impossible to remove. Also, the use of certain acid solutions can structurally weaken the grout in the joint of the tile. If in the event a mild solution of sulfamic or phosphoric acid base cleaner is needed, carefully read the manufacturer’s instructions.