



Tile & Stone

## Tile & Stone Flooring Care & Maintenance

### Routine Ceramic Tile Maintenance

1. You should allow your tile and grout to dry for at least 72 hours after installation, before any type of maintenance occurs.
2. Cleaning your new floor with a damp mop once a week is the best thing you can do to maintain your tile floor.
3. A simple sweeping or vacuuming of your tile floor prior to mopping will remove any dust or debris.
4. Make sure that any cleanser you have chosen is compatible with grout cleaning, (neutral pH), and will not stain the grout. We recommend Shaw's R2X Hard Surface Cleaner.
5. Heavy traffic areas should be mopped more frequently than once a week.
6. Never use detergent or soap as it may dull the surface of the tile.
7. When cleaning, the entire area should be cleaned or scrubbed with the recommended cleansing solution, through the use of a cotton mop, cloth, sponge, or non-metallic bristle brush.
8. The entire tile flooring should then be rinsed with clean water to remove any remaining cleaning solution residue.
  - **VERY IMPORTANT:** Cleaning unglazed tiles should be done on a regular basis using cleaners that have a neutral pH for safe regular use; these cleaners are better suited at removing grease, oils, and normal spills from unglazed products.
9. Routine cleaners should never contain acids, vinegar, chlorines, or ammonia as these chemicals can damage and discolor the grout or the surface of the natural stone or tile.

### Routine Natural Stone Maintenance

1. You should allow your stone and grout to dry for at least 72 hours after installation, before any type of maintenance occurs.
2. Cleaning your new floor with a damp mop once a week is the best thing you can do to maintain your tile floor.
3. A simple sweeping or vacuuming of your tile floor prior to mopping will remove any dust or debris.
  - **VERY IMPORTANT:** Cleaning natural stone should be done with cleaners designed specifically for natural stone. These cleaners contain no acid and are of concentrated neutral pH.
4. The stone needs to be damp prior to cleaning. The cleaner can be applied through light misting and agitated according to the cleaning manufacturer's recommendations.
5. Routine sealing is recommended. Some stone products may require additional protection after cleaning.

### Protecting Your Floor

1. Protect your tile by affixing felt or similar pads to the legs of any metal, iron, wood, or plastic furniture that could scratch and dull the surface.
2. Exterior metal furniture which rests on tile floors or patio areas may rust and cause staining.
3. The use of good, quality entry mats will help protect your tile floor from wear by collecting dirt, sand, grit and other foreign substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.