

# Tile Flooring Care

Note: *The first step is sealing the stone. All stone flooring should be sealed.*

---

The surface preparation (i.e. polished, honed) along with density and porosity of the stone will determine the best type of sealer (petroleum or water based) to use. The other consideration is to use the best product allowable by your budget.

---

## DAILY CLEANING

Immediately wipe up spills and messes. Use pH balanced cleaners and soap-less detergents for daily cleaning. Mild dishwashing liquid sometimes works quite well on stone surfaces.

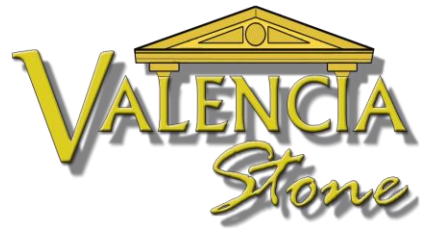
It is very **important** to rinse the tile and grout thoroughly to remove any remaining cleaner.

Agitate grout joints with a soft bristled brush to loosen debris. Thoroughly rinse, dry, and polish cleaned areas.

***Acidic cleaners will etch and remove the polished surfaces from alkaline stones like marble, travertine, and sandstone.***

Acidic cleaners will eventually erode the grout in the joints making cleaning and maintenance more and more problematic. This is especially true if using acid cleaners on sanded grout installations.

Colored grout pigment can be permanently damaged by using acidic cleaners. This is especially true if used on a daily basis.



# Tile Flooring Care

## HEAVY DUTY CLEANING

Again try to solve the heavy duty cleaning needs with pH balanced cleaners. These can include scouring cleaners and poultices manufactured for this purpose. Be sure to take advantage of a soft bristled brush to agitate the cleaners in the grout joints.

***Test an inconspicuous area*** with any abrasive powder to evaluate if it will adversely affect the finish of the stone.

A good practice is to allow the cleaner to rest upon the surface to gain the full potential of the cleaner.

If these results are not acceptable, then proceed to the more aggressive high alkaline "heavy duty" or "deep clean" type cleaners.

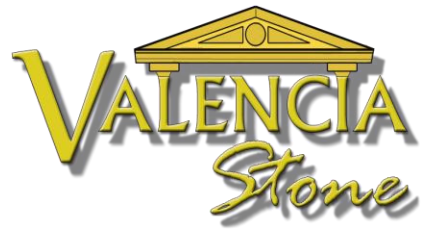
Commercial floor buffers or cleaning machines are perfectly suited to large areas of tile and grout. The biggest question here is the selection of the cleaning solution.

Again, it is very ***important*** to rinse the tile and grout thoroughly to remove any remaining cleaner.

If the result is not satisfactory using the PH balanced cleaners, it may be necessary to use an acidic solution to solve a particular problem.

***Acidic cleaners will etch and remove the polished surfaces from alkaline stones like marble, travertine, and sandstone.***

Sulfamic and phosphoric acids are the safest and most used acids in solving tile and grout cleaning problems. These two acids have very specific mixing and application recommendations that must be followed to the letter.



# Tile FlooringCare

## ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Most stones, once protected, require occasional scrubbing to remove surface build-up of dirt and grime. Using a **neutral cleaner**, mop or scrub on cleaner as directed, rinse if necessary. Towel drying after rinsing removes streaks.
- On some types of stone tiles, you can apply coatings to produce a "wear layer" or "sacrificial coating", but this may change the look of the tile and may sometimes require more maintenance to maintain the beauty of the floor.
- On honed (smooth but not polished) or slate (rough) finish stones, a good scrubbing is required more often, due to the texture of the stone holding the dirt to the surface. A good penetrating sealer cuts down on the frequency of this task. The beauty of these finishes is in their texture or matte appearance. Most stones are easy to maintain with a **quality sealer** and regular maintenance.
- With all stones, establish what sealer to use or has been used previously, and then work within the Manufacturer's guidelines to set up a regular maintenance schedule.
- If you have a large area that is damaged or if you want to establish a **once-a-year regular maintenance** procedure to keep your marble glowing with its original mirror finish, contact a restoration company that specializes in this type of work.

[Contact a Stone Specialist at Valencia Stone](#) for more advice on **FlooringCare**

*“Our goal is to help keep your home beautiful”*