



Tiles & Flooring Care Guide

Keep your tiles and flooring looking their best by following our care instructions.



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Porcelain Tiles

DESCRIPTION

Porcelain tiles are a type of ceramic tile, made from dense, refined clay. Porcelain is created using a specific manufacturing process, which involves firing clay at very high temperatures. These tiles are relatively easy to maintain and resistant to stains.

SEALING INFORMATION

These tiles do not require sealing.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- Regular cleaning with mild detergent and water is generally sufficient to maintain the tiles condition.
- Intermittent deep cleaning is also crucial in eliminating ingrained dirt and grime.
- Use a bucket, warm water, pH-neutral cleaner, mop with a soft head, soft-bristled brush.
- Patch-test the cleaner before use on a wider area.
- We recommend pre-soaking tiles, applying the solution and letting it sit for a few minutes to loosen dirt and stains before scrubbing.
- Rinsing with water is essential after cleaning to wash away any cleaner residue.
- Follow the cleaning product manufacturers instructions for the correct cleaner-to-water ratio to avoid damage.

CAUTION

- Do not use chemicals or abrasive cleaners. This includes:
 - Bleach and bleaching agents
 - Ammonium and ammonium agents
 - Highly acidic cleaners
 - Alcohol and mineral-based solvents
- Limit exposure to high levels of salt.
- If your product comes into contact with any of these chemicals, rinse immediately with warm soapy water.
- Avoid scourers and rough brushes for cleaning.
- Avoid contact with sharp objects which could chip or scratch the surface.
- Do not put heat directly on surface.

*Finishes and sizes listed may not be available in all markets.

Ceramic Tiles

DESCRIPTION

Ceramic tiles are formed using a mixture of clay, minerals and water. These materials undergo a firing process at lower temperatures compared to porcelain tiles. Ceramic tiles are relatively easy to maintain and resistant to stains.

SEALING INFORMATION

Tiles require sealing for outdoor and wet area installations. To ensure long-term protection and performance, use a high-quality sealant like Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold Penetrating Sealer.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

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Natural Stone Tiles

TRAVERTINE DESCRIPTION

Travertine is a form of limestone that is characterised by its unique appearance, typically featuring a porous surface with distinct, natural pits and holes. It is a sedimentary rock that forms in geothermal springs and caves. Travertine is a highly durable, versatile and low maintenance material that can withstand heavy foot traffic and rigours of daily use.

MARBLE DESCRIPTION

Marble is a metamorphic rock that originates from limestone or dolomite rock. It forms through a process called metamorphism, where heat and pressure cause a transformation of the original rock over time. This organic process produces stone that is incredibly unique.

Marble is a highly durable, hard-wearing and low maintenance material that also doubles as an excellent insulator and reflector of light.

LIMESTONE DESCRIPTION

Limestone is a sedimentary rock composed primarily of calcium carbonate in the form of the mineral calcite. It often contains other minerals such as clay, dolomite and quartz. Limestone tiles are versatile, highly durable and easy to maintain, making them an ideal choice for flooring.

SEALING INFORMATION

We recommend sealing all natural stone tiles using a high-quality sealant like Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold Penetrating Sealer. We also recommend resealing after 3-5 years, depending on installation location and whether it is a high/low use area, respectively.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- Regular cleaning with a pH-neutral cleaner is recommended.
- Intermittent deep cleaning is also crucial in eliminating ingrained dirt and grime.
- Use a bucket, warm water, pH-neutral cleaner, mop with a soft head, soft-bristled brush.
- Patch-test the cleaner before use on a wider area.
- We recommend pre-soaking tiles, applying the solution and letting it sit for a few minutes to loosen dirt and stains before scrubbing.
- Rinsing with water is essential after cleaning to wash away any cleaner residue.
- Follow the cleaning product manufacturers instructions for the correct cleaner-to-water ratio to avoid damage.

CAUTION

Please check the product description to identify if your tile is pre-sealed. We recommend sealing all natural stone tiles if being used in wet areas, e.g. shower enclosures and other areas where water may pool or have regular exposure to water. Use a high quality sealant such as Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold Penetrating Sealer.

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Handmade Clay Tiles

DESCRIPTION

Handmade clay is meticulously shaped and prepared using a traditional hand-operated moulding technique. This process ensures that each tile possesses a distinctiveness, reflective of the skilled hands involved in its creation. Clay is a durable and long-lasting material that is more resistant to wear and tear over time than many other tile constructions.

SEALING INFORMATION

Unglazed – We recommend sealing all unglazed handmade clay tiles using a high-quality sealant like Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold Penetrating Sealer.

Glazed – We recommend sealing glazed handmade tiles if they are to be installed outdoors and in wet areas, such as shower enclosures or spaces frequently exposed to water. To ensure long-term protection and performance, use a high-quality sealant like Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold Penetrating Sealer.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- Regular cleaning is recommended, but also frequent deep cleaning to eliminate ingrained dirt and grime.
- Use a bucket, warm water, pH-neutral cleaner, mop with a soft head, soft-bristled brush.
- Patch-test the cleaner before use on a wider area.
- We recommend pre-soaking tiles, applying the solution and letting it sit for a few minutes to loosen dirt and stains before scrubbing.
- Rinsing with water is essential after cleaning to wash away any cleaner residue.
- Follow the cleaning product manufacturers instructions for the correct cleaner-to-water ratio to avoid damage.

CAUTION

Handmade clay tiles can be sealed or unsealed. We recommend sealing all handmade clay tiles if being used in wet areas, e.g. shower enclosures and other areas where water may pool or have regular exposure to water. Use a high quality sealant such as Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold Penetrating Sealer.

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Terrazzo Tiles

DESCRIPTION

Terrazzo is a composite material made from a blend of fine aggregates such as marble, quartz, granite, glass, or other suitable material, bound with an agent such as cement or epoxy resin. This combination creates a mosaic-like finish with unique patterns in a smooth finish. Terrazzo tiles are easy to maintain and resistant to wear, stains and moisture.

SEALING INFORMATION

We recommend sealing these tiles using a high-quality sealant like Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold Penetrating Sealer.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- Regular cleaning is recommended, but also frequent deep cleaning to eliminate ingrained dirt and grime.
- Use a bucket, warm water, pH-neutral cleaner, mop with a soft head, soft-bristled brush.
- Patch-test the cleaner before use on a wider area.
- We recommend pre-soaking tiles, applying the solution and letting it sit for a few minutes to loosen dirt and stains before scrubbing.
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Enamel Glass Tiles

DESCRIPTION

Enamel glass tiles are created through the application of enamel to glass before firing, creating a dense, niche-looking product. Enamel glass tiles are extremely versatile and can be installed in hard-to-tile spaces like shower niches and curved walls. These tiles are non-porous and are resistant to moisture and staining.

SEALING INFORMATION

Tiles require sealing for outdoor installations.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- Regular cleaning with mild detergent and water is generally sufficient to maintain the tiles condition.
- Intermittent deep cleaning is also crucial in eliminating ingrained dirt and grime.
- Use a bucket, warm water, pH-neutral cleaner, mop with a soft head, soft-bristled brush.
- Patch-test the cleaner before use on a wider area.
- We recommend pre-soaking tiles, applying the solution and letting it sit for a few minutes to loosen dirt and stains before scrubbing.
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Engineered Timber Flooring

DESCRIPTION

Engineered timber flooring is manufactured using layers of genuine wood that are compressed between a protective coating and a durable thick plywood base.

Our click-fitted engineered timber flooring has a purpose-built click and lock system, these planks interlock, creating a tight, adhesive-free, nail-free, and screw-free finish for a seamless installation. Although this flooring can be installed without an adhesive, we recommend using an adhesive for increased durability.

Our Engineered Flooring is UV Lacquered for added protection, however some gradual fading may occur over time in areas that are regularly exposed to sunlight. We recommend moving rugs and furniture occasionally to ensure more uniform exposure to sunlight.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

• Regular Cleaning:

Sweeping/Vacuuming: Regularly sweep or vacuum your floor to remove dust and dirt. Use a vacuum with a soft brush attachment to avoid scratches.

Mopping: Use a damp (not wet) mop with a pH-neutral cleaner specifically designed for engineered timber flooring. Avoid using excessive water as it can damage the floor.

• Spot Cleaning:

Spills: Immediately wipe up any spills to prevent moisture damage. Use a soft, absorbent cloth for best results.

Stubborn Stains: For tougher stains, use a slightly damp cloth with a small amount of timber floor cleaner. Avoid abrasive cleaners and scrubbers.

• General Maintenance:

Mats and Rugs: Place mats at entryways to reduce the amount of dirt and moisture brought in from outside. Area rugs can also help protect high-traffic areas.

Furniture: Use protective pads under furniture legs to prevent scratches. Avoid dragging heavy furniture across the floor.

Sunlight Exposure: Limit direct sunlight exposure to prevent fading. Use blinds, curtains, or UV-protective window films as needed.

CAUTION

• Scratch Prevention:

Although the boards are scratch resistant, preventive measures should be taken to avoid scratches and marks.

Place felt pads under dining chairs, tables, and couches to protect the surface.

• Scratch Repairs:

If scratches or marks occur, they can be repaired by timber flooring specialists.

• Protection:

If installed near windows or sliding doors, adequate protection must be installed. Use window tinting and curtains or blinds to protect the timber from direct sunlight.

RESTORATION

For the maintenance, longevity and sanding of your engineered timber flooring, it is crucial to adhere to the Australian Standards AS 4786 and AS 1080, which outline the proper procedures for sanding and finishing. Sanding should only be performed on floors with a veneer thickness of at least 3mm and must be carried out by qualified professionals to avoid damaging the flooring.

A professional assessment is essential to ensure the veneer is suitable for sanding, and proper techniques must be used to preserve the floor's integrity. Attempting to sand without professional expertise can result in irreparable damage, voiding warranties and leading to costly repairs or replacements.

By following these guidelines and engaging professional services, you can maintain the beauty and durability of your engineered timber flooring. It must be emphasised that a professional must do all the sanding and refinishing. We do not recommend sanding back multiple times, as different environments require different care approaches; therefore, all work must be carried out by professionals to ensure proper handling and maintenance.

ABI Interiors assumes no responsibility for damages from improper sanding by unqualified individuals.

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Pool Tiles

DESCRIPTION

Glass pool tiles are crafted through a high-temperature fusion process that creates a dense, non-porous surface with exceptional durability, making them ideal for installation in pools, spas, and water features.

Porcelain pool tiles are manufactured at high temperatures to create a dense, durable and low-porosity surface, making them suitable for submerged applications such as pools, spas and feature walls.

Their non-porous nature makes glass and porcelain tiles resistant to chemicals and UV exposure, meaning they will maintain their appearance in submerged environments.

SEALING INFORMATION

Glass and porcelain tiles do not require sealing; however, if installed alongside porous materials such as natural stone or cement-based grout, a suitable grout sealer may be applied to protect surrounding surfaces and prevent staining.

Natural stone pool coping is supplied with a waterproof sealant to enhance durability and longevity. As natural stone is porous, the sealant should be maintained and reapplied as required using a suitable product.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- Regular cleaning with mild detergent and clean water is generally sufficient to maintain the tiles appearance.
- Deep cleaning should be performed periodically to remove ingrained dirt, algae, or chemical build-up.
- Use a pH-neutral, non-abrasive cleaner and a soft nylon brush to gently clean grout lines and tile surfaces.
- Patch-test the cleaner before use on a wider area.
- Maintain balanced pool chemistry at all times. Excessive chlorine, low pH, or high calcium hardness can dull or etch the glass surface over time.
- Periodically inspect for calcium deposits or efflorescence; these can be safely removed using a neutral, non-abrasive cleaner designed for glass.

CAUTION

- Do not use chemicals or abrasive cleaners. This includes:
 - Bleach and bleaching agents
 - Ammonium and ammonium agents
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- Avoid scourers and rough brushes for cleaning.
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