



## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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**RE:** Maintenance procedures for your tile installation after the cementitious grout has been installed.

### Care and Maintenance

72 hours after the cement grout installation, normal foot traffic and use of the floor can begin. Spills and accumulation of surface dirt can occur before the grout is sealed. The use of natural kraft paper to cover the grout is the best protection until the grout is sealed, but many times spills and soiling problems occur in areas not covered by kraft paper. All spills should be blotted from the surface immediately. All dust or powdery materials should be carefully removed by sweeping or vacuuming. Cleaning the soiled or spilled areas with a TSP solution is recommended. The use of clean water with a liquid dishwashing soap is also acceptable. Avoid the use of heavy-duty industrial cleaners, acids, colored liquid cleaners and certain spray cleaners that contain acids.

Regular mopping of the grout and tile surface on a daily, weekly, semi-monthly or monthly schedule should be determined by the user. Spot cleaning of the grout and tile surface should be done as spills or soiled areas occur between the regular cleaning intervals.

When mopping the tile and grout, the use of clean water with TSP is recommended. The TSP solution does not leave a film or build-up on the tile or grout.

### Common places to purchase TSP:

Hardware Stores/Paint Department (Ace)  
Home Depots, Lowes/ Paint Department  
Paint Stores (Sherwin Williams)  
Wal-marts/K-Marts

Only use cleaning products specified for tile and grout. Inspect the ingredients on the container and avoid the use of cleaners that contain acids or have a low pH level (below 7).

Follow the manufacturers directions for proper dilution and use of the cleaning products. Tile and grout will experience damage or build-up due to improper use of cleaning products.

After usage of cleaning products, completely rinse the tile installation with clean water to remove any cleaning residue.

Never use vinegar for initial cleaning or maintenance of a ceramic tile installation. Vinegar is an acid that can have detrimental effects on grout joints as well as tile.

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