



Tile & Stone FAQ:

Is tile/stone expensive?

Ceramic tile and natural stone installation may initially be more expensive than that of other flooring materials. However, both offer the added benefit of durability, a wide variety of design options and are fairly simple to maintain. Collectively, these factors can all contribute value to your home.

How durable is tile?

It is very difficult to damage ceramic tile when installed correctly. Most often, any chips, dents and/or breaks in the tile are caused by large, heavy objects falling onto the tile itself. Cracks in both the tile and the grout may appear over time due to gradual foundation shifts and/or overall structural insufficiency. We recommend keeping a small amount of tile on hand and repairing and/or replacing any cracked tiles or grout as necessary.

How do you clean tile?

For the most part, ceramic tile can be cleaned with a damp washcloth or mop. For routine cleaning of glazed ceramic tiles on walls, countertops or showers, use an over-the-counter "all purpose" cleaner (i.e. Mr. Clean, Soft Scrub). For glazed ceramic tiles on floors, unglazed ceramic tile on walls and floors and porcelain tile, use a mixture of soapless detergent (i.e. 409) and warm water. For deeper cleaning, try scouring powders (i.e. comet, Ajax) and/or commercial tile cleaners, referring to specific product instructions for proper use and best results. We do not recommend the use of any harsh chemicals, such as ammonia or bleach, or the use of steel wool pads, which can all result in irreversible damage to tile surfaces.

Should you apply a protective sealer?

We highly recommend applying a penetrating sealer to any natural stone approximately 48-72 hours after installation. This will not only enhance the beauty of the product and help protect against damaging UV rays, but also helps to reduce the potential for absorption of any staining materials. In regard to ceramic tile, we do not find it necessary, nor do we recommend applying an additional sealant, as these products are virtually stain resistant as is.

How do you clean/maintain grout?

Because grout is traditionally porous, it is susceptible to absorbing a variety of staining agents. Sealing the grout with a silicone agent after it has had a chance to dry completely will aid in persevering its life and overall beauty by deterring major absorption of any staining agents. Once sealed, you typically clean grout in the same manner in which you would clean your ceramic tile. It is also a good idea to reapply a silicone sealer a few times a year and repair/refill any "cracked" grout areas periodically for maximum protection.

17813 N. 34th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85032
Phone: (602) 391.9377 • Fax: (480) 275.3680
info@gnltileandstone.com

