



the natural stone & tile specialists

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## PORCELAIN TILES GUIDE

### POLISHED

#### **Sealing:**

- **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** or **Spirit Hard Surface Seal** (solvent-based) can be used to final seal the tiles and grout to protect the tiles from staining.

### HONED & TEXTURED NON-SLIP FINISH

#### **Sealing:**

- **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** or **Spirit Hard Surface Seal** (solvent-based) can be used to final seal the tiles and grout to protect the tiles from staining.

### CLEANING

#### **For all types of Porcelain tile finishes:**

Grout Smear, Rust & Oxide

- **Spirit Phosphoric Acid** can be used; the tile should always be rinsed thoroughly with **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** to neutralize the acid.

Heavy Soiling, Oils & Soap Scum

- **Spirit H.D.C** or **Spirit Porcelain Crème Cleaner** can be used to remove heavy soiling from the grout and stone.

Efflorescence, Salts & Minerals

- **Spirit Efflorescence Off** should be used to remove stubborn salts and minerals.

Mould, Mildew, leaf marks, Tannin, animal droppings

- **Spirit Bright As** should be used to remove these organic substances.

Wax, Scuff marks & Pencil marks

- **Spirit Porcelain Crème Cleaner** should be used to remove these types of marks.

Removing paint

- **Spirit Safe Stripper** is best at removing acrylic paint from the tiles.

General everyday cleaning

- **Spirit Neutral Cleaner** or **Spirit Rejuvenate** is the ideal maintenance cleaner.

# CLEANING & SEALING PROFILED PORCELAIN TILES

The advent of the porcelain tile in the last decade has ushered in a new era in hard floor coverings. These tiles usually have a water absorption of less than 0.05% with some less than 0.01%.

They are highly abrasion resistant with the colour going all the way through the tile. They are thin, hard and precision made, fired at high temperatures, sometimes exceeding 1200°C.

Whilst it's safe to assume that such a product requires very little maintenance, it has been demonstrated that with profiled porcelain, soils, oils and general cleaning can fall short of expectations.

The variety of finishes in porcelain is wide with some with a smooth honed finish to a rough almost sandpaper texture, this finish is due to the non-slip properties of the tile. The reality is that any non-slip finish will not be able to be maintained with a mop; they will require regular scrubbing with a detergent. Sealing with a penetrating sealer will not change this as it is the surface texture which creates a cleaning problem not the porosity of the tile.

**Spirit Marble & Tile Care** produces 2 sealants that will soak into the profiled surface area and act as a release agent. This will assist in cleaning and eliminate any staining issue that the tile or grout may have.



Profiled Porcelain Tiles

## GROUT SMEAR REMOVAL

Once the tile has been laid, the cleaning process can begin. In normal laying procedure, grout smear may be left on the face of the tile and need to be removed. **Spirit's Phosphoric Acid Cleaner** should be diluted 8 parts to 1 and the tile be scrubbed with a nylon scouring pad or bristle brush until all grout smear is removed. The floor must be rinsed and neutralized then allowed to dry.

## SEALING

When dry, **Spirit's Hard Surface Seal** can be applied using a lambs wool applicator. Only one coat at 12-15 sq metres per litre is required. **Spirit's Hard Surface Seal** dries within 30 minutes and can be walked on after 1 hour of sealing. **Spirit Water-based Premium Seal** can also be used, however the floor cannot be walked on for a minimum of 2 hours after sealing. Spirit does NOT recommend surface coatings on porcelain tiles, coatings may peel as it is very difficult for them to bond properly to the surface.

## MAINTENANCE

Daily cleaning can be achieved by mopping the tiles with **Spirit Neutral Cleaner**. Penetrating sealers sit beneath the surface and will not alter the slip resistance of the tiles however this means that the textured surface will still soil and scuff, rough surfaced tiles will still need to be scrubbed to remove built up soil. Should the floor require a heavy clean the **Spirit H.D.C** is the cleaner. This Heavy Duty Cleaner will break most difficult cleaning problems follow instructions and rinse the floor after using **Spirit H.D.C** to leave a streak free floor.

**Please Note:** This is a general guide only. For detailed information please contact Spirit [www.spiritsealers.com](http://www.spiritsealers.com)

**CLEANER & SEALERS FOR THE TILING INDUSTRY**