

CANCOS  
TILE & STONE

## CARE & MAINTENANCE FOR PORCELAIN/CERAMIC

*How to Properly Clean Your New Tile*



## *During Installation*

Porcelain/ceramic flooring is one of the first items installed on a construction site, leaving many other trades working on top of your brand new floor. To keep your floor in stellar condition, be diligent in keeping dirt and debris off your newly installed porcelain tile floor. Not only can this dirt harm the “drying/curing” grout, but they can also cause hazardous slippery conditions.

Be sure to wait at least 24 hours after installation before attempting to clean your floor.

- First, sweep your floor and be sure to remove any setting material, grout residue and/or any other construction residue from the surface before they have a chance to dry and harden. Please make sure to consult your grout manufacturers' cleaning/curing time recommendations before attempting to clean any floor with detergents. Too much water too soon after installation can harm and discolor grout.



Cleaning porcelain/ceramic tile is as simple as sweeping and mopping. You can mop using any neutral cleaner followed by a thorough rinsing. If you use **FILA STONECLEAN**, no rinsing is required. Grout manufacturers have printed detailed instructions for proper cleaning/curing of grout; please consult those instructions for important curing instructions. Our instructions do not replace nor supersede the manufacturers' recommended curing/care instructions.

- Proceed to cover your cleaned floor with “breathable” Kraft paper (do not use plastic coverings; this can harm the curing of the grout/setting material) to allow other trades to work on the construction site without harming your floor.

## *Proper Care During Construction*

Cancos recommends using brown paper or Kraft paper as your protection. This paper will help protect your new floor from debris during the remaining construction process.

## THE PAPER WILL ALLOW FOR TWO IMPORTANT THINGS:



- Protecting the newly installed tile grout.
- Allowing moisture to escape from the grout as it cures, further protecting the look and utility of the floor. This is an important step in achieving grout color consistency.

Never use plastic or non-absorbent materials to protect freshly installed tile. These types of non-absorbent products will trap moisture and can cause the grout to discolor during the curing period.

The protective brown paper should remain until construction is complete and open for intended (post-construction) use.

- Replace paper sections if noticeable tears or damage is apparent.
- Take care of swept clean affected area and reapply. Be sure not to “trap” debris under paper because that can “grind” dirt into new floor.

During this time, some grouting manufacturers require dampening of the grout joints to facilitate color lock and proper cure. Again, make sure you refer to the grout manufacturers’ instructions. Our instructions do not replace nor supersede the manufacturers recommended curing/care instructions.

## GROUT HAZE

Also known as efflorescence, Grout Haze is a very common white film. It’s a chalk-like dusting that settles on the floor after installation. Efflorescence is a byproduct of cement products (grouts and thin sets). As products dry, salt minerals combine with water and escape to the surface through the grout joints. The efflorescence and/or grout haze are the salts left behind after the water evaporates. In most cases, this haze can be removed with clean water and drying.



It is important that you:

- Work in a small area
- Moisten; DO NOT drench the area.
- Immediately dry the area with force using either a terry cloth towel or paper towel.
- Clean water frequently or you will just redistribute the salt minerals.

This process may need repeating more than once. If repeated cleanings do not clear the problem, contact a local Cancos branch for a stronger professional cleaner. Depending on the type of flooring involved (porcelain, stone or other), we can recommend the appropriate cleaner, which is usually **FILA DETERDEK** for porcelain tile and **FILA STONECLEAN** for marbles.

## *Daily Maintenance*

The construction phase is now over. From here, daily or routine cleaning of Porcelain tile is simple. Depending on your wear, we recommend daily to weekly sweeping with a soft bristle broom



and/or vacuuming, followed by a damp mopping with a neutral cleaner like **FILA STONECLEAN** and then rinsing. It is important that the cleaning product used is non-oil, non-soap and non-animal fat based. These cleaners have a tendency to act like magnets and attract dirt and dust, which can affect the DCOF and slip resistance of the floor.

### **DIFFERENT SURFACE FINISHES MAY REQUIRE DIFFERENT CLEANING AND/OR FINISHING:**

Honed floors will require the same initial step of sweeping; the floor may need detergent to “sit” for five minutes or need detergent specific recommendations. Depending on the level of dirt, some agitation along with the detergent might be required. Cancos recommends using a non-abrasive nylon scrubber. Mop and rinse as recommended above. For polished porcelain floors, we recommend sweeping with a dry dusting mop instead of the bristle brush.

- Wipe or mop with neutral cleaners as stated above.
- Rinse and dry or buff to increase shine. If streaking occurs, try changing bucket water more frequently. Steamers work well on polished floors too.

Although great for slip resistance, slate textures and industrial finishes require a little extra effort on the maintenance side. The extreme high and low surfaces make cleaning a little more aggressive.

- Sweep using a strong rigid bristle. We recommend sweeping the floor twice in opposing directions to ensure removal of all debris.
- Saturate floor with detergent, agitate, let detergent sit to activate, agitate again then rinse thoroughly.
- After rinsing, dry vacuum or towel dry excess water from floor to eliminate dirty water from settling into tile crevices.

## Heavy Duty Maintenance

Neglected or heavily trafficked tile may require more intensive cleaning.

### FOR GLAZED FLOOR TILES:

- Use a commercial tile cleaner like **FILA PS87** or apply a strong solution of an all-purpose, non oil-based cleaner or scouring powder paste.
- Let stand for five minutes, brush and scrub.
- Rinse with clean water and wipe dry.

### FOR UNGLAZED FLOOR TILES:

- Use a commercial tile cleaner like **FILA PS87** or make a paste of scouring powder.
- Apply to surface and let stand for five minutes.
- Scour with brush, rinse and wipe dry. Though a small brush is suitable for most floors, you may want to use a scrubbing machine for large areas.

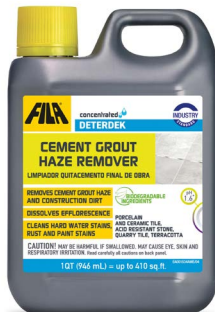
Porcelain tiles, whether glazed, matte, honed or textured, are the most durable tiles available; they do not require the use of sealers, surface coating, or waxes. In actuality, the use of such products on the non-absorbent nature of porcelain tiles can turn a low maintenance floor into a labor-intensive, high maintenance floor. In fact, these items, in most cases, can change the finish and/or diminish the slip resistance of the floor and will add unnecessary steps to the overall maintenance program without enhancing the overall appearance.

## Cleaning Products

### FILA STONECLEAN



### FILA DETERDEK



### FILA PS87



FOR MORE SPECIFIC CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS,  
PLEASE SEE ANY SALES ASSOCIATE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH  
OR CALL 1-800-3-CANCOS FOR ASSISTANCE.







*\*Photo courtesy of Jamie Morgan @ Blake & Dane Designs*

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