

# COVERINGS ETC

ECO-GRES™

Care and Maintenance

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## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

### Material Quality

All our Eco-Gres™ collection is produced by using the highest quality standards and the finest available raw materials. These unglazed porcelain panels, tiles, and mosaics are fully vitrified, resulting in extreme durability, hardness, and low water absorption.

Porcelain is also highly resistant to fire, stain, bacteria, odor, wear and scratches. However, as with every surface material, a basic cleaning and maintenance program should be followed in order to maintain a satisfactory appearance and an acceptable level of performance.

### Care during Construction

These surfaces are classified as a finished material. As such they should not be installed until after any heavy construction work has been completed. In instances where these tiles are installed prior to the completion of construction special care must be taken to protect the tile until it is put into normal service.

The general build up of dirt and debris present on any construction site may negatively affect the performance of the tile if it is left unprotected. The best way to protect the tile surface is to cover it with a protective layer of Kraft paper, carpeting, cardboard, plywood, or any other material that will not adversely affect the tile surface.

### Initial Cleaning and Maintenance

The most important cleaning operation is performed immediately after the tile has been set. This involves the complete removal of grout residue and construction dirt from the newly installed tile floors.

Grout manufacturers provide directions for the clean up of their products after installation has been completed these directions should be followed. In many cases these products can be successfully cleaned by scrubbing with a mild detergent, combined with a thorough rinsing. It is critical that all rinse water be removed through wet vacuuming or dry toweling. Should any grout residue remain this process can be repeated several times as necessary.

When using a dark colored grout with a light colored tile, a grout release may be used prior to grouting to assist in the removal of the grout from the surface of the tile. Please follow the specific manufacturers' instructions for the use of these products.

### Surface Coatings

The inherent density and low water absorption of all our porcelain materials ensure a product that is easy to maintain. These tiles do not require the use of sealers or waxes. These surface coatings may actually negatively affect the performance of the tile.

### Regular Maintenance

The inherent technical characteristics of these porcelain materials ensures that they will be relatively easy to maintain and should provide years of enjoyment.

Many general purpose cleaners that are readily available are acceptable for use on these surfaces. It is important that the cleaner has a non-oil, nonanimal fat, non-soap base.

These components can leave behind an invisible residue which can trap dirt. It is also important that the tile receive a thorough rinsing with clean water after the cleaning process has been completed.

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### General cleaning steps for porcelain

1. Remove all loose debris from the tile by sweeping with a soft bristle broom or vacuuming.
2. Any spills should be wiped up as quickly as possible.
3. Apply the recommended amount and dilution of the appropriate cleaner to the tile. Allow the cleaner to remain on the tile for short period of time (at least 5 minutes).

Remove the dirty cleaning solution and water with a wet vacuum or mop. Thoroughly rinse the tile with clean water and remove with a wet vacuum, mop, or towel. It is absolutely essential for all detergent residues to be completely removed from the tile. Any remaining detergent residue can dry on the tile and form a coating which can trap dirt and be very difficult to remove. The tile should be rinsed several times if necessary to remove all detergent residues.

The frequency and timing of any maintenance program is dependent on the specific characteristics of each tile application. Factors such as foot traffic, environmental conditions and product color should be considered when planning your maintenance schedule

### Recommended Cleaners

There are many excellent cleaners on the market today which should provide you with satisfactory results. All purpose household cleaners are suitable for general cleaning of these products.