

CEMENT TILE CLEANING GUIDE

Over time, unglazed, cement (encaustic) tiles may begin to take on a prized characteristic known as patina. This is not considered a flaw, and is no different than the richness and character that develops on marble or other high-quality natural stone surfaces.

In order to maintain the brilliance of your cement tiles, regular cleaning and surface protection is required. Please refer to the following guide to cleaning and maintenance recommendations.

Note: always refer to the application instructions as stated on the specific product label or user guide. Instructions provided below are given in best faith, but do not supersede individual product safety guides and application instructions. Always test a new product in a small, discreet area prior to application across the entire surface.

The following instructions are applicable for tile installations where Miracle 511 Porous Plus or Miracle 511 Seal and Enhance was used for tile sealing. In general, it is recommended that you use products within the same product line for sealing and cleaning. If you used a different sealer for your tiles, please inquire with the sealer manufacturer as to the best products and practices that are compatible with the sealer that you used.

GENERAL CLEANING AND LIGHT STAINING

For daily cleaning of tiles in high traffic/use areas we recommend Miracle Tile and Stone Cleaner. This pH neutral, non-toxic cleaner is gentle enough for daily use and effective in preventing build up of dirt and grime.

Apply product according to instructions on the container.

Additional application tips:

- Always sweep, dust or vacuum surface prior to cleaning to remove any hard debris that may scratch the tile surface.

- Use a soft bristle brush (avoid hard brushes as these may further scratch or mar the tile surface)

- Always use a CLEAN microfiber mop head, or soft white towel to remove leftover product when cleaning. It is important not to use a dirty mop head, sponge, or towel, as this will further contaminate the tile surface.

REMOVING STAINS

To avoid staining on cement tiles, always clean up spills immediately— never allow liquids to sit on the tile surface.

For tougher stains that require further attention beyond the use as described above of Miracle Tile and Stone Cleaner, we recommend Miracle Liquid Powltice. This two-part liquid powltice is designed for deep cleaning of porous materials and is effective in drawing out various types of dirt and grime.

Always begin by removing dirt and general debris from the surface area. If treating an active spill, immediately absorb any liquid from the tile surface. Once the area is dry and free of contaminants, proceed with applying the liquid powltice according to the application instructions on the product container.

Additional application tips:

- Do not allow the applied solution to dry on the surface. You may use a damp towel, paper towel, or plastic wrap

laid gently over the solution to help retain moisture while standing.

Liquid Poultice will continue to pull dirt to the surface for up to 24 - 72 hours after application. It is recommended to wait at least 24 hours after completion before sealing areas with an appropriate Miracle 511 Sealant. See SEALING for more information on this required final step.

REMOVING STUBBORN STAINS

If a stubborn stain remains after application of the Liquid Poultice, we recommend Miracle Poultice Plus Cleaner & Stain Remover. This powdered poultice is designed to work with different cleaners/chemicals to draw out most deep stains.

Apply according to instructions on the product container.

Additional application tips:

Some stains may require multiple applications.

Always seal the affected area with an appropriate Miracle 511 Sealant after use.

REMOVING THE MOST DIFFICULT STAINS - SURFACE REFINISHING - SANDING

For persistent, deep stains that are not removed after performing the above steps, surface sanding can be an effective solution to refinish the cement tile surface.

For concentrated stains, hand sanding with a sanding block and 400 grit wet/sandpaper may be required. You will also need (minimum) two buckets of clean water & two clean towels.

Resurfacing Instructions:

Select a discreet area to test.

Using a bucket of clean, warm water and a clean towel, thoroughly wet the surface. The water will act as a lubricant during sanding.

It is important NOT to over sand. Proceed carefully, stopping incrementally to check until a micro-layer has been removed.

Once the stain is no longer present, immediately wipe the sanded surface clean using a clean dry towel.

IMPORTANT: it is essential to immediately clean away the pigment slurry produced during the sanding process.

Do not let this sit on the tile surface. Failure to remove the slurry immediately can result in the solution staining the surface of the tile.

Once a test area is sanded to completion and deemed successful, continue to sand the rest of the installation or affected area.

*After completion, it is required to seal the newly refinished area with an appropriate Miracle 511 Sealant.

SEALING

We recommend Miracle 511 Porous Plus sealant. This moisture resistant penetrating sealer prevents stains and product degradation. Effective as a grout release or top sealant on porous tile and grout.

Apply according to instructions on the product container.

Note: Read entire product label, information sheet, and safety data before use. Miracle Sealants 511 Porous Plus Sealer should NOT be diluted or thinned in any way.

EXTRA NOTES

LIMESTONE SOAP

As an added step for areas in need of extra protection (such as a kitchen backsplash or countertop near a stove, or bathroom floor) you may use Miracle Limestone & Travertine Soap. This is a no rinse stone soap designed to produce a protective film to further protect the surface.

Miracle Limestone & Travertine Soap should be applied after cleaning, and is not required as daily care. If using, we recommend applying every ___(months, weeks, after a certain # of cleans?) Please refer to the Miracle Limestone & Travertine Soap product label/guide for application instructions.

Note: Miracle Limestone & Travertine Soap will deepen the color of your tile and may draw out more visible patina/texture. As with all products, we recommend testing in a small, discreet area to ensure the finished look is as expected before applying to your entire tile surface.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR WHITE TILE

White or light colored cement tiles will require a higher level of maintenance, cleaning and care in order to maintain original colors.

White/light color tiles need consistent cleaning and more regular re-sealing.

Even with regular cleaning and maintenance, white/light color tiles may still develop discoloration, stains and signs of wear, especially in high-traffic areas.

We recommend high traffic households/locations take this into consideration when selecting colorways and choose a tile appropriate for the use area and expected level of maintenance.