



Cement Tile Installation

Tile Setting - Sealing and Maintenance Suggestions

PLEASE READ

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Villa Lagoon Tile

Installation, Tile Setting, Sealing, and Maintenance Suggestions

Tools, Supplies and Equipment Needed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level • Tile Wet Saw-Diamond Blade • Carpenter's Square • Notched 3/4" Hand Trowel • Grout Float—Rubber • Pencil • Tape Measure • Buckets for Mortar • Chalk Line 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tile Adhesive—Regular Thinset Mortar • Unsanded Grout • 6 to 8 ft Straight Edge • Containers to Pre-soak the Tile • Sponge • Clean Rags • Goggles for cutting tile • Sealant • Clear Wax & Buffer
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About the Tiles

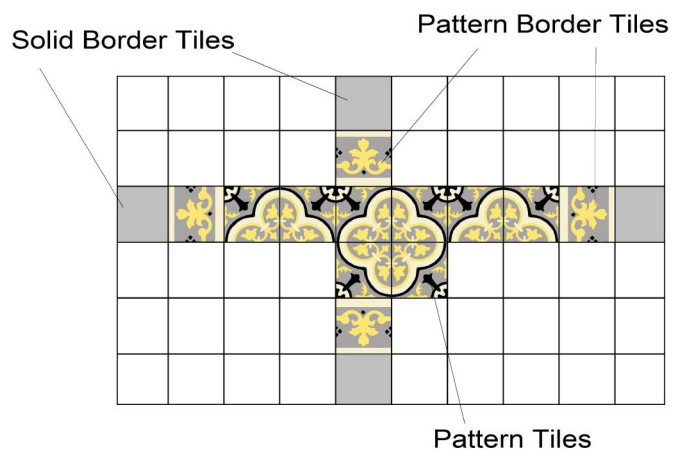
Cement tiles show nuances in design and colors. All the tiles will not be identical. This is a result of the hand-crafted production process and the nature of cement. Mixing tiles from different boxes during setting is suggested to produce a beautiful naturally rich appearance.

Precautions

1. Always test products on a single tile before applying to the entire floor.
2. Use impregnator sealants abundantly but do not leave the product unabsorbed on the tiles.
3. Do not make any unnecessary pencil marks on cement tiles as they may be impossible to remove later.
4. Tile, as all building materials, is subject to contraction and expansion depending on climate. If you are covering a large area install it as a “floating floor” using Schluter-DITRA® or similar product and/or expansion joints to prevent cracks in your tile.

Tile Layout

1. Prior to installing, lay out at least one row of your tiles dry (without adhesive) in each direction of your intended tile orientation (plan) to see if any adjustments need to be made. You may need to shift the layout to balance border tiles from the walls. If using pattern tiles make careful note of the tile's orientation.
2. Snap guidelines using a chalk-line to suit your layout. A light coat of clear spray or hairspray will help preserve the chalk lines during the job.



Setting the Tile

Generally cement tiles are set abutted to one another with a minimal grout line using unsanded grout. However, for tiles set outdoors a larger grout line may be used along with sanded grout.

NOTE: If time and space permits, sealing the tiles prior to installation will facilitate grout removal later.

Keep the sealant off the side of the tile. Modern impregnator sealants allow for moisture to evaporate through them.

1. Unsealed cement tile is very absorbent so **PRE-SOAKING THE TILES PRIOR TO SETTING IS REQUIRED**. To do this, simply submerge several tiles at one time in a large vessel (i.e. a chest cooler). Let set 5-10 minutes, remove and allow to drip off excess. Keep rotating tiles in and out of the water to provide a steady supply of tiles ready for setting to the tile installer
2. Working in 2-3 sqf areas, spread the thinset on the sub-floor using the hand trowel and working from the center of the room. "Back-buttering" the tiles is recommended, but not required. Press the tile down firmly with your hands, **DO NOT USE A HAMMER OR RUBBER MALLET**. This can break the tiles. Traditionally cement tiles are set without spacers with a very narrow grout line.
3. Be sure to wipe off with a wet sponge any excess thinset mortar that may get on the tile surface. The thinset could stain the unsealed tile.
4. Follow the chalk line guides in one direction using whole tiles. Be sure to check for squareness, alignment and lippage on every tile. One good test for levelness is to slide a coin across your tiles.
5. Begin seating tiles in the opposite direction along the guidelines using the same procedure as above.



Tiles soaking in water prior to setting.

Cleaning the tile before grouting

1. Once the whole tiles are set, let stand/cure 12-15 hours until dry. Look for any surface dirt or dried mortar and remove with a razor blade carefully without scratching the surface. **DO NOT USE ANY ACIDS, VINEGAR OR BLEACH ON CEMENT TILE**. A razor blade for scraping or fine sandpaper with water is acceptable.
2. You can use a floor machine with a white scrubbing pad to clean the tiles with a pH neutral mild soap or special marble cleaner. Rinse with clean water and remove excess with a shop vac.
3. Allow tiles to dry out completely. If tiles are sealed and/or waxed when wet, it can impede evaporation and result in dark splotches.
4. During drying protect tile at all times from workmen, foot traffic, etc. Ramboard[®] is a breathable product on a roll made for this purpose. See our website (www.VillaLagoonTile.com) for a link.

Grouting the Tile

NOTE: If time and space permits, sealing the tiles prior to grouting will facilitate grout removal later. Try to avoid letting the sealant seep into the grout line.

1. If the grout line is 1/8" or less un-sanded grout is recommended.
2. Wet the surface of the tile prior to grouting otherwise the tile will absorb moisture from grout mix that is needed for grout to cure properly. Dark grout is not recommended, particularly if there is a lot of white or light colors in the tile.
3. Clean up with sponge and water. A razor blade, very fine sandpaper or scrubbing pad may be used for stubborn spots.
4. Extremely stubborn grout stains may be removed using GCFR by Miracle Sealants. Available at most home improvement stores. A dilution of 1 part GCFR to 8 parts water has been used effectively. Again, test on a small portion of the tile before applying. Rinse thoroughly afterward.

Sealing the Tile

Residential Application

1. Tiles can be sealed using an impregnator type sealant that soaks into the tile's surface or an

- epoxy type top-coat sealant.
2. If using a top-coat type sealant, consult with your contractor or contact us for recommendations.
 3. If using an impregnator sealant, follow the product instructions. It is usually applied using a soft cloth. Take off excess with a dry cloth.
 4. If desired: Apply clear liquid marble, or paste wax with a clean cloth after sealant is dry. It may be applied easily with a Swiffer[®] wrapped with a soft cloth. Once the wax is dry, buff to a satin sheen using a rotary buffer. See our website (www.VillaLagoonTile.com) for wax suggestions and links to purchase a household-sized buffers.

Commercial Application

1. For commercial applications please contact Villa Lagoon Tile info@villalagoontile.com or call 215-968-3375.

Maintenance of Tiles

1. Never use acid cleaners for cement tiles. **Use only pH neutral mild soap or dish soap.** See our website (www.VillaLagoonTile.com) for suggestions.
2. Occasionally re-apply sealant to high traffic areas.
3. To brush up wax finish, apply original wax after cleaning the floor and buff to glowing sheen. Swiffer[®] type cleaning tools are a good choice for tile floors. See our website for links to special 3M[®] cloths that are more efficient than grocery store types.

Optional Mechanical Polishing - Glossier Finish (Crystallization)

1. Wear protective clothing, including hand and eyewear.
2. If a glossier sheen is desired, wet tiles using a spray bottle - work in small areas.
3. Hand broadcast Oxalic Acid crystals onto wet area. (Available on Ebay)
4. Using a single disc floor machine with a white pad and or hemp rope, buff acid crystals into wet floor area until dry. A light sheen should appear on tiles as floor dries. If not, repeat process.
5. After tiles are thoroughly dry, rinse areas and remove any residue.
6. Dark colors will show more sheen than light colors.
7. Wax and buff as usual.
8. NOTE: Commercial marble/concrete finishing companies may be found online or in your local Yellow Pages.

Stain Removal

Take every measure to protect your tile from stains until it is sealed and waxed. Accidents happen and the tiles even after sealing may get stained. Stains should be treated as soon as possible. Soda, wine, salad dressings, food spills, etc. should not be left to sit on the tile as they can eventually penetrate through the sealer and stain the tile. Before attempting to remove the stain take time to understand what the stain is. **NOTE:** Never use acid cleaners on the tiles.

For more information regarding Miracle Sealants visit their website - www.miraclesealants.com

Typical Stains

- **ORGANIC:** Coffee, tea, tobacco, food, cosmetics, plant, food, blood, wine.
- **INORGANIC:** Rust, iron, bronze, steel, metal.
- **BIOLOGICAL:** Mildew, mold, fungus, algae.
- **OIL-BASE:** Grease, cooking oil, food stains, tar, body oil
- **INK:** Ball Point Pen or Magic Marker.

Poultice is a method used to remove stains by reabsorbing the stain using a medium. This is different

than just cleaning with an agent. Simply put, poulticing it is soaking the stain out of the tile using a material such as a paper towel or cotton balls in combination with Miracle Sealant Poultice Plus Powder.

1. Mix Poultice Plus powder with the chemical you have selected, to make a paste-like substance.
2. Apply the paste to the stain and do not let any excess drip or spill onto adjacent clean areas. The paste should have a consistency similar to peanut butter.
3. The paste should be applied approximately 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick overlapping the stain by 1/2 inch. Cover the area with plastic wrap to prevent dehydration and secure the edges down with non-marking tape.
4. Let the poultice completely dry.
5. As the poultice dries it will pull the stain from the area into the paste. Drying time is usually 24-48 hours depending on the type of poultice being utilized. If the stain has improved, re-apply the poultice. Multiple applications may be required.

Types of Stains

GROUT & THINSET MORTAR RESIDUE (Cementitious)

First try excess water and soft bristled brush then, vacuum water away. Towels may only spread the dirty water. If this does not work well try light sanding with water...again vacuum away water.

Miracle Sealants GCFR- Dilute 1 part GCFR: 8 parts water – Follow product instructions.

RUST STAINS: Clean with one of the following:

- Miracle Sealants' Liquid Poultice
- GCFR (Miracle Sealants' Grout Concrete Film Remover) - Dilute 1 part GCFR: 8 parts water
- Oxalic Acid

INK STAINS: Poultice with one of the following:

- Miracle Sealants' Liquid Poultice
- Miracle Sealants' Mira Strip
- Light Colors: Hydrogen Peroxide 35%
- Dark Colors: Acetone or Lacquer Thinner

OIL BASE STAINS: Clean with

- Miracle Sealants' Mira Clean #1
- Miracle Sealants' Liquid Poultice
- Miracle Sealants' Mira Strip
- Household Detergent
- Mineral Spirits
- OR Poultice with one of the following:
 - Mineral Spirits
 - Miracle Sealants' Mira Strip
 - Methyl Chloride

ORGANIC STAINS: Clean with:

- Poultice with 35% Hydrogen Peroxide. Let set 20 minutes, check, reapply if needed.
- Miracle Sealants' Mira Clean #1
- Miracle Sealants' Liquid Poultice
- Poultice with same as above.

BIOLOGICAL STAINS: Clean with:

- Miracle Sealants' Mira Clean #1
- Miracle Sealants' Liquid Poultice