

Grouting, Cleaning and Maintenance

Sealed Terra Cotta

Grouting

It is recommended that a test patch be done prior to grouting the installation to determine if the grout pigment will stain the tile. If discoloration does not occur on the surface of the tile, then proceed with grouting.

If discoloration does occur, it is recommended to request from the grout manufacturer a proper procedure for the protection of the tile.

Cleaning

It is important to completely remove the setting material, grout residue, and any construction residue from the surface of the tiles before they have a chance to dry. In most cases, the tiles can be cleaned successfully by scrubbing the installation with a "neutral detergent cleaner" followed by rinsing. If a grout residue still remains, rinse further, cleaning the tile several times with clean water, to be certain you have removed traces of grout residue from the surface of the tiles. Grout manufacturers have detailed instructions for the proper cleaning of grout residues. The grout manufacturer's directions should be followed if a grout film is present on the surface of the tile.

Please note: Acid washing is rarely recommended. Acid or acid based cleaners should not be used to clean a grout residue. Some acids can burn non-epoxy or cement grouts and leave a white film that is almost impossible to remove. Also, the use of certain acid solutions can structurally weaken the grout in the joint of the tile. If in the event a mild solution of sulfamic or phosphoric acid base cleaner is needed, carefully read the manufacturer's instructions.

Protecting the installation

We recommend that cardboard be placed over installations during the construction phase. Do not apply tape to the surface of the sealed terracotta tile. The use of plastic as a cover is not recommended.

Maintenance

Once the initial cleaning process has been completed, the tiles just need to be swept or vacuumed and damp mopped with a neutral detergent cleaner.