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# STONE TILE CARE & MAINTENANCE

MAY 2009



## INSIDE TILE INC



### Memorial Day

Tile Inc. will be closed on Monday, May 25<sup>h</sup> 2009 in observance of Memorial Day. We will reopen Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

### CHECK IT OUT!

Tile Inc. has a new display of Terra Bella product going up in the showroom. The walls feature honed Bianco Carrara harlequin marble mosaic, pencil rail & chair rail in the same color, a beautiful Mugwort Green (gray) 5/8x5/8 mosaic, and lastly a blue, white and gray wave mosaic listello. The floor will feature a honed Bianco Carrara and Mugwort Green (gray) basket weave. Come in and take a look!

### COMING SOON:

IWT Marble and Travertine medallions.

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As one of the most durable, practical and hygienic surface material out on the market, consumers are often led to believe that stone tile is maintenance free. Stone tile is *NOT* maintenance free, however, it is **LOW** maintenance.

Consumers often ask, "How do I clean and care for my stone tile?" Here is a quick **DO NOT USE** list and the reasons why you shouldn't use these types of care and maintenance:

1. Do not use vinegar & water as routine cleaner. It is acidic and regular use can damage grout and acid sensitive glazes. Also, acids are poor degreasers.
2. Do not use lemon oil to treat grout. Lemon oil never cures and attracts dust and airborne contaminants.
3. Do not use most grocery store variety of tile cleaners. Majority of these will contain acid or other harsh chemicals that will cause eventual damage.

What you do want to use when cleaning your stone tiles and grout is a neutral cleaner. Neutral cleaners are generally very mild detergent type cleaners. They are commonly sold in a very concentrated formula, and using a small amount diluted in clean water is a very effective way for routine (weekly or as needed) maintenance for both stone tiles and grout. Neutral cleaners will also help eliminate hard water deposits that may eventually develop over time if the water available has a high mineral content.

Another important consideration when using any cleaner is to read manufacturer's instructions thoroughly before use. Always test the cleaner on a small inconspicuous area to see if you will get desired results. Do not hesitate to call the manufacturer's technical service hot line if you any questions or reservations.

Here at Tile Inc., we carry a good variety of everyday cleaners to problem solving cleaners. One great option for every day stone tile cleaning, is a product we stock called TEC Refresh Pro. Available in a quart sized container or convenient 24oz spray bottle, this product has a penetrating sealer that adds water and oil repellency every time you clean. It contains no bleach or abrasives and no rinsing is required with use. This product also contains a mold & mildew resistant sealer and is great for exterior or interior applications.

If you need a stone cleaner for something more than regular maintenance, please contact your tile friends here at Tile Inc. to trouble shoot your cleaning and maintenance issues.