



Globally Proven  
Construction Solutions

# Care & Maintenance of Tile & Stone Installations

## TDS-1113

Finished ceramic and stone tile surfaces including the grout and sealants are not self-cleaning or totally stain-resistant. Regular and routine maintenance is required to ensure the long term beauty of the installation. Regular cleaning and wiping up spills quickly will help minimize the possibility of staining and dirt build up.

The following information will provide guidance and help in maintaining tile installations and associated LATICRETE surface finish materials (LATICRETE grouts, sealants and STONETECH® Sealers) for many years.

### General Cleaning Maintenance.

Regular cleaning – For routine, everyday maintenance cleaning of the installation, a clear pH neutral cleaner (e.g. [STONETECH Stone & Tile Cleaner](#)) is recommended. LATICRETE finish materials (including LATICRETE grouts, LATAPOXY® grouts, LATICRETE LATASIL™ & STONETECH Sealer) require regular cleaning with pH neutral cleaners like STONETECH Stone & Tile Cleaner which may differ from the cleaning requirements of the floor or wall finish.

Spot or special purpose cleaning – For soiling from grease or oils, use an alkaline cleaner (e.g. [STONETECH KlenzAll™ Cleaner](#)). For hard water deposit and other inorganic stains use [STONETECH RESTORE™ Acidic Cleaner](#) to remove these residues and stains. For soap scum removal, use [STONETECH Soap Scum Remover](#). For mold and mildew removal use [STONETECH Mold & Mildew Stain Remover](#).

### Good Cleaning & Maintenance Practices.

Before using any cleaning product on tile, stone or LATICRETE surface finish, always follow cleaner manufacturers instructions and test clean a small inconspicuous area and allow to dry to ensure compatibility of the cleaner with the surface to be cleaned. Powdered cleansers are not recommended for cleaning unsealed or unglazed tile, and many types of soft stones. Nylon pads should be tested to ensure they don't scratch soft or polished surfaces. Acid based products are not recommended for polished marble and other types of stone.

Highly alkaline, acidic ammonia based, abrasive cleaners or bleach may damage some porcelain, ceramic and quarry tile and/or grout surfaces and may also degrade an applied sealer, adversely affecting stain repellency. The use of a gentle cleaner specifically formulated for tile and grout maintenance is the best assurance of not harming the tile and grout or degrading any applied sealers.

Acid based products should be used by experienced applicators, on approved surfaces, including the grout, that have been saturated to mitigate the absorption of the cleaner into the face of the installation.

Some floor cleaning procedures, such as damp mopping, will redistribute and deposit dirt on the finished surface and generally collect on the grout joints. When cleaning with [STONETECH Stone & Tile Cleaner](#) apply a solution on the surface and allow to dwell for a short time before agitating with a brush or suitable scrub pad. For best results, remove the contaminated water with a wet vacuum cleaner from the surface and the grout joints before the water dries. Rinse well, vacuum and allow the surface to dry. Alternatively, rinse with plenty of fresh water, changing the water regularly to remove all the dirt and allow to dry.

Surface finish cleaning requirements vary. For installation specific cleaning and sealing requirements, see [Maintenance & Care Instructions MCI's](#). Contact LATICRETE for surfaces not listed in our MCI's.

Spills should be wiped up immediately with a paper towel or cloth. If a stain remains, scrub the surface with warm water and a white nylon scrubbing pad, for at least 60 seconds. If the stain remains, follow the relevant MCI.

For staining and cleaning requirements for surfaces treated with STONETECH Sealers refer to the individual [MCI](#) for treatment instructions based on the tile that has been laid.

For more deeply set or especially stubborn grout stains contact LATICRETE Technical Support for more specific instructions by either Email: [Technicalsupport@laticrete.com.au](mailto:Technicalsupport@laticrete.com.au) or Phone: 1800 331 012 or 07 3865 1599.

**Note:** This information has been prepared in good faith on the basis of information available at the time of publication, to provide guidance on basic cleaning and care methods for a range of common tile and stone finishes under normal environmental and working conditions. It may not cover all the requirements for cleaning & care methods of specific products and the user should ascertain the required cleaning and care methods for any specific tile or stone from its manufacturer before commencement of such processes.

Refer to all Product Data sheets and MCI's prior to use. Visit [www.laticrete.com.au](http://www.laticrete.com.au) for the latest revisions.