



Epoxy Grout Joint Removal

TDS 111

For all removal methods, always:

1. Protect/mask off carpeting, woodwork and other finishes near the work area;
2. Verify results first with a small test area in an inconspicuous spot;
3. Remove at least $\frac{1}{2}$ the depth of the existing grout joint prior to re-grouting;
4. Provide effective ventilation

Mechanical Removal:

This method is fast; but great care must be taken to avoid damage to tile surface and edges. Use small circular or right angle saws with diamond cutting blades equipped with dustless vacuum systems. The vacuum system will minimize the amount of airborne dust. This system can be used in occupied structures. Proper re-grouting depth is approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the depth of the existing joints.

Chemical Removal:

1. Apply non-flammable, water cleanable, gel type Paint and Epoxy remover directly to grout joints. Be absolutely certain to follow manufacturer's safety precautions & warning instructions on the label. **ROOM MUST BE WELL VENTILATED!**
2. Allow remover to remain on the grout joints as long as necessary to remove epoxy (usually 30 minutes to 2 hours).
3. Using a narrow brass or wire brush (NOTE: wire brush may scratch some types of tile, test before using), rake out joints (minimum $\frac{1}{2}$ depth of the grout joint).
4. Wash with a solution of Spic & Span, tri-sodium phosphate (TSP) or electric dishwasher detergent (1/2-cup detergent in 2 qt. of warm water) to completely neutralize the paint remover. **WARNING:** detergent solutions require eye protection and gloves.
5. Remove any and all loose or free epoxy from the grout joints. A wet/dry vacuum works best for this procedure. Rinse with clean water and remove any excess water from joints with wet/dry vacuum, sponge or dry cloth and allow joints to completely dry.
6. Sweep joints again with stiff dry brush to remove any residue.

Heat Gun Removal

This method is well suited for "spot" (singular) tile repairs. Use a high power Industrial Heat Gun (1200 Watt, $\geq 500^{\circ}\text{F}$ [260°C]). These devices will soften the cured grout and enable it to be scraped out. **DO NOT USE TORCHES.** Do a test patch to verify results. The heat gun method requires patience. Finished surfaces need to be protected from the heat. Also, the heat gun may damage some soft glazed tiles. This method may produce some odor so adequate ventilation is required.

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