

# Brick and Clay Tile

## Care & Maintenance Guide

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## Caring for brick and clay tile

There are many varieties of brick and clay tiles, and while each has different properties, they all have a few characteristics in common:

- No brick or clay tile is completely stain- or damage-proof. Being porous by nature, they require special care.
- Keep in mind that all materials and finishes hold contaminants differently. A glossy tile may not stain as readily as a matte tile, but polished finishes show scratches more easily.
- Like all materials, brick and clay tiles need maintenance, including cleaning and sealing. The frequency of a maintenance program depends on the tiled area's location and the use it gets. The busier an area is, or the more exposure it has to the elements, the more maintenance it will require. A bustling family kitchen and a seldom-used guest bath may represent opposite extremes, but you get the idea. A pool area may need to be cleaned more frequently because of its exposure to water and chemicals. Your maintenance plan may consist of a weekly cleaning and semi-annual resealing or a daily cleaning and monthly resealing—or something in between.

## How to clean

Regularly sweep or vacuum your tiled floor to remove any dirt or debris. Walking over a floor that needs cleaning may permanently stain or scratch it if abrasive debris is dragged across the surface.

To keep your tiled-and-sealed walls and/or floors looking good, we recommend using our [specialty cleaners](#) and [maintenance products](#).

When selecting cleaning tools, opt for stiff-bristled plastic brushes, white scouring pads, and mops. Avoid tools with metal bristles.

We recommend the [Laticrete Revitalizer 2-in-1 Citrus Scent Cleaner and Sealant Spray for Natural Stone & Grout](#) to clean everyday messes. When applied regularly, its built-in sealer extends the life of the product and prevents stains, making surfaces easier to clean. Before using any product on your tiles, including cleaners, sealers, and brushes, we recommend testing in an inconspicuous area for damage or discoloration.

When washing a floor, use plenty of clean water. Rinse, mop, and repeat until the water in the bucket is clear.

Transition areas where floors and walls meet, as well as areas likely to be exposed to spills or other messes, such as the wall behind a stove, may require special attention when cleaning.

## Sealing brick and clay tile

- All brick and clay tiles require a sealer, and in most cases, you will need to use a pre-sealer or grout release before grouting.
- Prolonged exposure to water can affect the wear and look of brick and clay tile.
- To avoid damage, test all cleaners, sealers, and cleaning tools (such as scrub brushes) on the tile before use.

### ***TileBar Tech Tip:***

- *Follow all instructions closely.*
- *The more an area is used, the more often it will have to be cleaned and sealed.*
- *If an acidic cleaner is used, be sure to protect adjacent materials.*

## Stains and scratches

Different stains or contaminants may require different cleaners. For example, a cleaner with a neutral pH is good for removing grease and oils. For soap scum, hard water deposits, or mildew, use a gentle all-purpose spray cleaner or a cleanser intended for brick and clay tiles. A complete list of our cleaners is available [here](#).

We recommend the Laticrete Heavy Duty KlenzAll™ Cleaner Concentrate for Natural Stone, Tile, & Grout to remove tough dirt, grease, and grime. If you choose to use a harsher or more acidic cleaner for stubborn stains, be careful it doesn't come into contact with adjacent materials. Test harsher cleaning materials in an inconspicuous spot to ensure they won't cause damage.

After applying the cleaning product, scrub, then wait for it to work as directed. Remove the cleanser with a damp sponge, and rinse thoroughly before drying.

It is best to avoid using permanent inks or dyes near your brick and clay tiles. If they do come in contact with your tiles, rinse with water immediately, and use a cleaning product that's safe for brick and clay tiles.

