

CHAPTER NINETEEN

EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE™

CONCRETE CLEANING & MAINTENANCE TIPS

BEFORE INSTALLATION

Wet-cast concrete tiles are manufactured with concrete and delivered unsealed. Therefore, it is important to cover and protect material from weather, jobsite debris, and other contaminants. Tiles should be stored in their original packaging for best results.

DURING INSTALLATION

Concrete tiles are porous unless sealed so care must be taken to avoid staining with grout, mortar, or other products used in the installation. Make sure to protect products from damage, staining, overspray, or traffic of other trades working nearby.

Concrete tiles can be presealed prior to installation or before grouting to ease cleanup. Grout, mortar, or other products can bond with sealed surfaces if not cleaned in a timely manner.

We recommend using a grout bag to properly fill joints and to minimize staining. “Smear” grouting is not recommended, even if products are presealed, because the large amount of water required for cleanup may affect the performance of the grout and mortar.

The installation process may change the color of products. This is normal but if you prefer the color of the product as delivered presealing is highly recommended, especially for lighter colors.

AFTER INSTALLATION

Sealing is important to protect the finish and for improved stain resistance (please refer to Sealing Guide for detailed information and recommendations). If properly sealed, water should bead up on the surface. If not, another coat of sealer is necessary.

Keep in mind that sealers are not designed to provide a permanent barrier to staining or act as a waterproof layer. Instead, the goal is to provide reaction time to clean up stains before penetrating the surface. For example, if a glass of red wine is spilled on the kitchen floor make sure to clean up as soon as possible as it will eventually penetrate the sealed surface.

It is also important to have realistic expectations of how the tiles will wear over time. Even if properly sealed, concrete tiles will not be impervious like a porcelain tile. Concrete tiles are handcrafted, rustic, and will age gracefully and develop a beautiful patina over time.

The rate and extent of the wear/patina process will vary widely based on a range of considerations, including installation location, quality of the initial seal, and if the products are cleaned regularly and resealed when necessary (when water no longer beads on the surface).



JEFFREY COURT®

REGULAR CLEANING

Clean tiles regularly with a pH-neutral cleanser like *Mira Clean #1 by Miracle Sealants*. Test on a loose piece in an unobtrusive area if there is any doubt about the cleaner's suitability. Make sure to read all directions and consult the cleaner manufacturer.

DO NOT use muriatic acid, hydrochloric acid or other harsh chemicals to clean. If more aggressive cleaning is required, Restore by DuPont Stonetech is recommended. This is a mildly acid cleaner so make sure to start with the highest level of dilution and test if there are any doubts.

If employing a tile and stone restoration specialist to clean the tiles, make sure they are aware of the composition of the concrete tiles and are also aware of the sealer that was used to initially seal the tiles.

You may contact us at (951)340-3383 or info@jeffreycourt.com for questions or additional information.