



# ***Maintaining the Home***

## ***Tile Floors Care and Cleaning***

# ***Maintaining the Home: Tile Floors Care and Cleaning***

---

## **Ceramic Tile Floors: Care and Cleaning**

### **Care**

If the tile is unglazed, seal it with a special sealer. If it is glazed, seal the mortar between tiles. If the tile is not sealed or glazed, it can be stained by grease. Glazed tile is easily scratched like porcelain enamel.

### **Cleaning**

The best and easiest way to clean a ceramic tile floor is to scrub it with an electric floor washer or polisher-scrubber. The thorough cleaning action should brighten the tile and joints. Use a solution of 1/4 cup of low-sudsing detergent, or 1 to 2 tablespoons of either washing soda, tri-sodium phosphate or commercial floor cleaning powder, in 1 gallon of water. Rinse well.

When further treatment is needed, particularly for the grout, apply a solution of water and chlorine bleach (liquid or powdered). Let it stand for 20 minutes or so, then mop the floor, rinse thoroughly and wipe dry. Then wax the floor for protection and easier care.

## **Terrazzo Floors: Care and Cleaning**

### **Care**

Traditional terrazzo is made of cement and marble with extra marble chips on the surface. The cement portion is porous and quickly absorbs stains. A more modern form, made with synthetic resins, such as urethane or epoxy as the “binder”,

used in place of cement, do not stain as readily. A penetrating sealer should be applied to new terrazzo floors to seal the pores in the cement and thus retard stain absorption. Resealing may be needed occasionally.

### **Cleaning**

1. Clean as often as needed to keep grime and sand from building up. Soil acts as an abrasive and damages the floor.
2. Use only neutral liquid cleaners (meaning those which are neither acid nor alkaline).

For the best results, use a commercial cleaner made especially for terrazzo. All-purpose household cleaners, soaps, detergents and wax removers usually contain one or more alkalis, and so should not be used on terrazzo. For general cleaning, use 1 cup of neutral cleaner with each 3 gallons of water or follow the manufacturer's directions.

3. Wet the mop with the solution and then mop the floor. Allow the solution to remain on the floor several minutes. Then mop up the dirt-filled solution, changing the rinse water often. This helps to remove all soil and also does away with unsightly “mop lines”.

Keep the floor wet at all times during the cleaning operation. Otherwise, dissolved soil dries back onto the floor. When the floor is dry, buff it with an electric polishing machine, if you have one. Buffing helps restore the natural sheen on the floor.

---

## **Maintaining the Home: Tile Floor Care and Cleaning**

4. To remove stubborn soil, periodically use an electric scrubbing machine with a stronger solution of the neutral cleaner.
5. Daily sweeping or dusting will mean easier weekly care and more attractive floors. Do not use an oiled mop or oily sweeping compound. Oils in any form can penetrate the surface and permanently discolor terrazzo floors.
6. Wipe up spilled materials quickly to prevent any staining.

This material was adapted from publications produced by Michigan State University. Michigan State Cooperative Extension publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/>.

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

---

### **Interior Maintenance**

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup  
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs  
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products  
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

### **Heating**

Furnace Care  
Fireplace and Chimney Care

### **Cooling**

Evaporative Cooler  
Air Conditioner  
Ceiling Fans

### **Plumbing**

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains  
How to Unclog a Toilet  
Repairing Dripping Faucets

### **Electrical**

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker  
How to Replace a Fuse

### **Appliances**

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance  
Choosing a Water Heater

### **Maintenance:**

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning  
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning  
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning  
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning  
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning  
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning  
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning  
Washer Care and Cleaning

### **Flooring**

Buying new carpet  
Carpet Care and Cleaning  
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning  
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning  
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

### **Walls**

Selecting and Applying Paint  
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning  
Repairing Walls

### **Furniture**

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design  
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

### **Exterior Maintenance**

#### **Home Exterior**

Foundations, Basements and Yards  
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

#### **Roof**

A Guide To Roofs  
Roof Maintenance

#### **Landscaping and Lawn Care**

Principles of Xeriscape  
Watering Your Lawn

### **Home Safety**

Child-Proofing Your Home  
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?  
Smoke Alarms Save Lives  
Carbon Monoxide Alarms  
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?  
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

---

### **Maintaining the Home: Tile Floor Care and Cleaning**

---

## **Conservation**

Weatherize Your Home  
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet  
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows  
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling  
Indoor Water Conservation Tips  
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

## **Environment Issues**

Green Building  
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management  
Create a home recycling center  
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes  
Dealing with Mold  
Household Hazardous Waste  
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects  
Radon

## **Pest Control**

Cockroaches and Their Control  
Southwest Insects

## **Accessible Living**

Update your home for a lifetime of living  
Vision Loss & Hearing Loss  
Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion  
Cognitive Difficulties  
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

---

Sponsored by New Mexico State University and the City of Las Cruces. Supported by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. © 2005 NMSU Board of Regents. All rights reserved.



## **Maintaining the Home: Tile Floor Care and Cleaning**