

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# Ceramic Tile



### SOME ADVANTAGES TO CERAMIC TILE

Among the most durable of flooring surfaces, ceramic tile also proves to offer an amazing array of design flooring possibilities.

Variations in size, color, texture and pattern not only should be expected in ceramic flooring, they should be enjoyed. This distinguishing characteristic of ceramic tile is a source of its natural beauty. For a neat, contemporary ceramic tile floor, choose a tile with low shade and texture. A tile with a high or random shade and texture will achieve a more casual, rustic effect.

Ceramic tile has been around for centuries and with today's technology manufacturers have created new design and application possibilities that were not available a decade ago. If you have never used ceramic tile before or it has been a long time since you have done so, you will be amazed at the wide selection of colors, sizes, shapes and new textures that are now available.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF CERAMIC TILE

- **Durable** - a properly installed ceramic tile will outperform and outlast nearly any other floor covering product created for the same application.
- **Easy care** - glazed ceramic tile resists stains, odors, and dirt and can be cleaned up with a damp mop or sponge or common household cleaners such as Mr. Clean, Top Job or Spic and Span.
- **Scratch resistant** - Grade III and Grade IV glazed ceramic tiles are extremely resistant to scratching and you never have to worry about a cut or tear like you do with some other types of floors.
- **Environmentally friendly** - ceramic tile is manufactured using natural materials and does not retain odors, allergens, or bacteria.
- **Beautiful and Versatile** - modern ceramic manufacturing technology has created virtually an unlimited number of colors, sizes, styles, shapes, and textures that will add rich beauty and character to any room decor.
- **Fire Resistant** - ceramic tile doesn't burn nor emit toxic fumes. A lighted cigarette, when dropped on the floor, even if allowed to sit, will not do any damage to ceramic tile. Even hot kitchen pans or skillets will not scorch or melt the surface of glazed ceramic tile.
- **Water Resistant** - most glazed ceramic tile has a dense body that permits little or no accumulation of moisture. This means spills from common liquids found in a kitchen are not a big concern.

### CERAMIC TILE OPTIONS

**Unglazed Floor Tile (Pavers)** - There is no glazing or any other coating applied to these ceramic tiles. Because these tiles are porous it is recommended that a special penetrating sealant be used to maintain this type of floors and to help prevent stains from seeping into the pores of the tiles. Their color is the same on the face of the tile as it is on the back, resulting in very durable tiles that do not show the effects of heavy traffic.

### CERAMIC TILE OPTIONS

**Marble** - A natural product that is not made in a factory. For this reason no two pieces of marble look the same and the veining is a natural characteristic in all marble. There are special marble sealants to help protect from staining of the face. Extra care should be used when cleaning and all abrasives and acidic cleaners should never be used. Even colas, some juices and possibly ammonia may destroy the marble finish.

**Granite** - This is another natural stone that is not manufactured in a factory. Granite can be used indoors or outdoors and is less porous than marble. It is still recommended that you use a sealant to protect the finish from staining.

**Porcelain** - This is a type of ceramic tile made of a very fine mixture of clays and minerals similar to those found in fine dinnerware. These special clays allow porcelain tile to be fired at temperatures even higher than ceramic tile, typically exceeding 2,400°F. The higher temperature results in a very dense tile. The denser a tile, the better it resists moisture.

#### Porcelain Tile

- Resistant to stains, odors, bacteria, and scratches
- Denser and harder than most other tile
- Highly stain and water resistant
- Naturally hygienic with easy to clean surfaces that can be smooth, textured, or polished
- Beautiful and durable

### INSTALLATION

Some important things we can help with when selecting a ceramic tile floor is the slip-resistance, the size and color of the grout joints, the thickness of the tile, height variations from room to room, size of the tile, suitability of the subfloor and cleaning of the tile.

Grout - A mixture of cement and a color additive. For ceramic tile floors with wider spaces between each tile, sand is added to the grout. Also, a liquid latex additive can be added to the grout to give better resiliency to the grouted areas. For ease of maintenance a penetrating sealant should be used on the grout. It should be noted you may see a change in color of your grout over time. You can also vary the size of your grout line, from barely visible to as wide as you like which can be an extremely effective decorating element.

#### Ceramic Tile Installation Options

- Coordinating grout color, for a uniform look
- Contrasting grout color, which will emphasize the tile pattern designer color, for a completely unique installation
- The width of the grout