

ROUTINE BY FINISH

Polished

Daily: dust mop or vacuum with a soft brush head (no beater bar) to pick up the grit that dulls the shine. Wipe spills as they happen.

Weekly: damp-mop with warm water and a pH-neutral cleaner, then dry with a clean microfiber cloth or mop for a streak-free shine.

Matte

Daily: sweep or dust mop. Matte porcelain hides dust and water spots well, but grit still wears on any floor.

Weekly: damp-mop with warm water and a pH-neutral cleaner. Drying is optional; rinsing is not, because leftover soap shows as a dull film.

Textured

Daily: sweep or vacuum. Textured and anti-slip finishes hold dirt in their grip, which is what makes them safe when wet.

Weekly: wash with a pH-neutral cleaner and a soft-bristle brush or deck brush, working into the texture, then rinse with clean water.

STAIN REMOVAL CHART

Wine, coffee and tea	Blot right away, then wash with warm water and a pH-neutral cleaner. For a dried mark, leave a paste of baking soda and water on it for 10 minutes, scrub gently with a soft brush and rinse.
Grease and cooking oil	Hot water with a degreasing dish soap or an alkaline tile cleaner. Let it sit a few minutes, scrub with a soft brush and rinse well so no soap stays behind.
Rust	Use a rust remover labeled safe for porcelain tile. Test it in a hidden spot, keep it off cement grout as much as you can and rinse thoroughly.
Paint	Wipe fresh latex paint with a damp cloth. Lift dried paint with a plastic scraper; a little mineral spirits on a cloth softens oil-based paint. Wash and rinse afterwards.
Hard water and soap scum	Diluted white vinegar or a tile cleaner made for hard water, left on for a few minutes only. Rinse well and keep acidic products off cement grout.
Ink and marker	Rubbing alcohol on a white cloth, dabbed rather than rubbed so the ink does not spread into the grout. Rinse with clean water.
Grout haze after installation	A grout haze remover recommended by the grout manufacturer, used within the time on its label. Cement and epoxy grouts need different removers.
Scuffs and metal marks	Rubber soles, chair legs and pots can leave grey lines. A melamine sponge or a non-scratch cleaning cream with light pressure removes them. Test first on polished tile.

WHAT NOT TO USE

- Wax, oil-based soaps and floor polishes: they leave a film that traps dirt and makes floors slippery.
- Steel wool and abrasive scouring pads: they can scratch polished porcelain and leave metal marks.
- Hydrofluoric acid and products that contain it: it is the one chemical that etches porcelain.
- Undiluted bleach or ammonia as an everyday cleaner: they are not needed and wear on grout.
- Mixing cleaners, above all bleach with ammonia or with acids: the fumes are dangerous.
- Colored or dyed cleaners on light grout: the dye can stain the joints.

Start with the gentlest option, test any new product in a hidden spot, rinse with clean water and never mix cleaners. Porcelain tile never needs a sealer; the grout may, depending on its type.