



Tile Installation Guide

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Tile Care, Maintenance & Warranty Guide

Proper installation, care, and maintenance are essential to ensuring the long-term performance and appearance of your tile installation. Lint Tile recommends following established industry standards and best practices to protect your investment and maintain warranty eligibility.

Industry standards for tile installation and maintenance are primarily governed by the Tile Council of North America (TCNA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These organizations establish the methods, materials, and performance criteria used throughout the tile industry.

Essential Installation Guidelines

A successful tile installation begins with proper preparation and execution in accordance with ANSI A108 installation standards.

Substrate Preparation

- All surfaces must be structurally sound, clean, dry, and flat before installation.
- When installing over cement backer board, lightly dampen the surface prior to applying thin-set mortar. This prevents premature moisture loss that can weaken the bond.

Mortar Coverage Requirements

- Industry standards require:
- Minimum 80% mortar coverage in dry, interior areas
- Minimum 95% mortar coverage in wet areas, exterior installations, and showers
- Full coverage ensures proper bonding strength and minimizes voids beneath the tile.

The 1/3 Offset Rule

- Rectangular or plank tiles should never be installed in a 50% running bond pattern.
- A maximum 33% offset is recommended to reduce lippage (uneven tile edges) caused by inherent tile warpage.

Proper Application Technique

- Use the flat side of a notched trowel to “key in” mortar to the substrate.
- Comb mortar ridges in a single direction to allow air to escape as the tile is pressed into place.
- Periodically lift tiles during installation to confirm proper coverage.

Routine Maintenance & Care

Maintenance requirements vary slightly by material, but the following best practices apply to most ceramic and porcelain tile surfaces.

Initial Cleaning

- Remove grout haze within 24 hours of installation using clean water or a specialized grout haze remover.
- Avoid aggressive scrubbing tools that may damage tile surfaces.

Routine Cleaning

- Use pH-neutral cleaners designed specifically for tile and grout.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water.
- Avoid acidic, abrasive, or ammonia-based cleaners, as these can deteriorate grout and dull tile finishes over time.

Sealing

- Most porcelain tiles do not require sealing due to their dense composition.
- Grout sealing is strongly recommended to reduce staining and moisture absorption, especially in wet areas.

Job-site Protection

- During construction or remodeling, protect tile surfaces with breathable floor protection paper.
- Never use plastic coverings, as they trap moisture and may cause grout discoloration or surface issues.

Warranty Information

Lint Tile warrants that its tile products meet applicable industry manufacturing standards at the time of sale. This warranty covers material defects only and does not include labor, installation costs, or consequential damages.

Important Warranty Conditions

- Installation must follow TCNA guidelines and ANSI standards.
- Failure to follow proper installation methods, including mortar coverage requirements, substrate preparation, and movement joint placement, may void the warranty.
- Damage caused by improper maintenance, harsh chemicals, structural movement, or environmental conditions is not covered.
- Natural variation in color, shade, and texture is inherent in tile products and is not considered a defect.

Installers are responsible for inspecting all tile prior to installation. Installed tile is considered accepted, and no claims will be honored for visible defects after installation.

Industry Resources

For detailed technical guidance, Lint Tile recommends consulting the following resources:

- TCNA Handbook – The industry reference for approved installation methods
- ANSI Standards – Defines performance criteria and material specifications