

Microtech Finishes - The Latest Technology For Wet Areas

Microtech is an advanced glaze technology on porcelain tiles. It provides the advantage of a natural/matt (R10) finish when dry, with the added security of being an antislip (R11) when wet.

The obvious advantage here is that you can use the same tile throughout a project without any concern that it will be more slippery in some areas than others. To ease and concerns you might have in this regard we have had the finish tested locally and independently in New Zealand, the results are available on request.

Please remember that all recommendations are intended as a general guideline only. Read all directions prior to use and always test a small area first. For any queries please contact your EC representative.

Black/Dark tile selections

Black or darker toned tiles can offer a great foundation, assist with enhancing lighter tiles and visually offers a dramatic & sophisticated look.

Whilst beautiful, these tiles may be more difficult to keep clean and will require more frequent maintenance. A black/dark tiled bathroom or kitchen may appear to hide debris and dirt. However, in bathrooms hard water that deposits minerals and other impurities in the water may show water spots and other residues to a greater extent than lighter colours, and dirt may still appear. Correct installation and cleaning method is required and on-going maintenance on a regular basis.

Pre-Grouting

We recommend a pre-grout product with the Microtech finish. We recommend Aquamix Grout Release.

Aquamix Grout Release is a temporary, water soluble, pre-grout coating. It provides protection against grout and mortar staining and eases grout cleanup.



Key Features:

- Temporary, water-soluble pre-grout coating.
- Provides protection against grout & mortar staining.
- Installation aid simplifies cleanup.

For use on:

Porous or textured surfaces such as; natural stone, concrete pavers, masonry surfaces, ceramic, porcelain, quarry, saltillo, terra-cotta.

Limitations:

- Prevent buildup of Grout Release in grout joints.
- Do not use acid solutions for cleanup as acid may react with Grout Release, forming a crystalline residue on surface.
- Product may discolour some light coloured tile and stone, test first.

Application of Product:

> USE CHEMICAL-RESISTANT GLOVES, such as nitrile, when handling product. Read entire label before using. Apply a coat of Grout Release, ensuring 100% surface coverage using a sponge applicator, heavy-textured paint roller or brush. Allow a minimum of 30 minutes drying time before grouting. Follow grout manufacturer's instructions for grouting process. Grout Release residue should be removed through normal grout cleanup process. If Grout Release residue remains on surface, use Aquamix Heavy Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner to remove. For most smooth porous surfaces, an application of sealer may be used in lieu of Grout Release prior to grouting.

Post Installation

Cement Grout Haze Remover is an organic acidic treatment designed to remove cementitious grout haze, mineral deposits, rust stains, mortar smears, and efflorescence. Effective for the removal of most hard water stains, lime deposits, and soap scum. Also removes cement grout and mortar residue from tile, concrete, and masonry. Etches concrete. No phosphates.



Key Features:

- Removes cured grout haze and mortar smears
- Cleans hard water stains, rust and soap scum
- Dissolves efflorescence
- Contains no phosphates
- Easy-to-use acidic treatment

For use on:

Acid resistant natural stone (such as granite and slate), ceramic, porcelain, quarry, Saltillo, terracotta, and other acid resistant tiles.

Limitations:

- Do not allow product to come in contact with any nonrecommended surface
- Do not mix with other cleaners
- Acids of all kinds may etch, lighten, or change the colour of cementitious material, metallic glazes and some natural stones such as marble, limestone, travertine and some basalts

Application of Product:

- USE CHEMICAL-RESISTANT GLOVES, such as nitrile, when handling product. Read entire label before using. Concrete and grout installations should be cured a minimum of 10 days. Sweep, vacuum, or wipe surface. Pre-wet surface with water.
- Mix Cement Grout Haze Remover as follows:
 - LIGHT SOIL BUILDUP: Mix 1 part cleaner to 3 parts water.
 - HEAVY SOIL BUILDUP: Use product up to full strength as needed.
 - Apply solution to wet surface and scrub with a white nylon bristle brush. Work in small areas. Flush with water immediately after brushing. For heavy concrete etching, allow solution to sit for up to 30 minutes prior to flushing with clean water.

Post Installation – Additional – If Required

We recommend a post installation deep clean on all our products however this is especially important with the Microtech finish as a subsequent option following haze remover should it be required.

The smoothness of the surface may convince you that this tile will always be easy to clean however if grout haze and building debris are not removed post installation, issues with marking can arise later.

We recommend using Aquamix Heavy Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner.

Aqua Mix Heavy-Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner is a concentrated, high-alkaline cleaner and degreaser. It will effectively remove grease, soap scum and other organic materials from areas that have been neglected or subjected to heavy use. It also removes synthetic and acrylic waxes and floor finishes.



Key Features:

- For heavily soiled and neglected areas
- Cleans ground-in dirt, grease, soap scum, and other organic materials
- ➤ Safe Non-acidic formula
- > Strips wax and floor finishes

For use on:

➤ Polished & unpolished porcelain tiles, grout, ceramic, natural stone (such as granite, limestone, slate and travertine), ceramic, quarry, saltillo, terra-cotta, cement pavers, masonry surfaces, linoleum or resilient flooring.

Limitations

- > Do not allow cleaner to come in contact with any non-recommended surface
- May adversely affect grout joints that have been coated with colorant/grout stain
- > Regular use of high-alkaline cleaners will reduce sealer life

Application of Product:

- ➤ USE CHEMICAL-RESISTANT GLOVES, such as nitrile, when handling the product. Read entire label before using. Put on rubber gloves and eye protection. Sweep, vacuum, or wipe surface.
- Mix Heavy-Duty Tile & Grout Cleaner as follows:
 LIGHT SOIL BUILD-UP: Mix 1 part cleaner to 5 parts water.
 MODERATE SOIL BUILD-UP: Mix 1 part cleaner to 3 parts water.
 STRIPPING OR HEAVY SOIL BUILD-UP: Mix 1 part cleaner to 2 parts water.
- Apply solution to surface with mop or sponge. Allow dwelling 3 to 5 minutes for cleaning, or 5 to 10 minutes when stripping waxes or finishes. Agitate with a synthetic mop, scrub brush, or scrub machine. Do not allow the solution to dry on the surface. Mop up dirty solution. Rinse thoroughly with clean water.

Post Installation - Additional – If Required

After the cleaning application we also recommend using Aquamix NanoScrub.

This is a mild abrasive cream cleaner designed to work where other cleaners won't. It utilizes micro-sized particles to penetrate into small surface pores where it can effectively work to remove surface stains and residues. Effective for cleaning all stone and tile surfaces. Also removes factory-applied waxes, coating sealers, light grout residue (including epoxy), rubber and pencil.



Key Features:

- Dissolves ground in dirt from textured surfaces
- Removes factory applied waxes and floor finishes
- ➤ NanoScrub is non-acidic and non-flammable
- > Breakthrough technology

For use on:

As a cleaner for porcelain tiles, ceramic, polished and unpolished natural stone (such as granite, limestone, marble, slate, and travertine), grout, quarry, saltillo, terra-cotta, cement pavers, masonry surfaces, and other stone, tile and grout surfaces.

Limitations:

➤ Do not allow product to come in contact with any non-recommended surface, including (but not limited to) onyx and soft limestone.

Application of Product:

- ➤ USE CHEMICAL-RESISTANT GLOVES, such as nitrile, when handling product. Read entire label before using. SHAKE WELL BEFORE USING. Sweep, vacuum, or dust surface to remove any loose debris. Prewet surface with a liberal amount of water. Apply NanoScrub® directly to the wet surface. Agitate with a white nylon pad, scrub brush or scrub machine. Mop or wet vacuum up residue. Rinse thoroughly with clean water. NanoScrub can be used as a power booster with any Aqua Mix cleaner or problem solver, mixed according to directions.
- Apply chosen product to surface, add NanoScrub and agitate mixture. Continue to follow directions on the chosen product making sure a clean water rinse is the final step to remove any remaining residue.

Ongoing Cleaning

For ongoing cleaning any cleaner you prefer to use will be sufficient for products with the Microtech finish and you should experience no issues. That said every four months or so we recommend a clean using Fila PS87.

Application of Product:

- Mix PS87 with hot to boiling hot water.
- Pour on tiles and do 4m2 at a time once areas saturated with mixture use soft agitating brush and softly scrub, house broom ok. Leave for few minutes.
- You will then see a milky substance rise to surface of tiles. That means product is working and lifting product out of tiles and is made to float on top of watery surface.
- The next phase is essential. You can either vacuum up that surface with wet dry vacuum or if not available use dry towels and soak up dirty product and rinse towels. You must get up all dirty water otherwise it the dirt will simply rest back on to the tiles surface. Next, rinse floor with hot water and repeat towels process if need be. The PS87 specification document is noted as below.



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