



CerAsia's Easy 1-2-3s of Buying & Maintaining Tiles

When buying tiles:

- 1. First, measure the areas to be covered. On top of this, order 5-10% for cuttings and wastage.
- 2. For wall tiles, take into account the window and door opening and positions.
- 3. Have your drawing plans, sketches and measurements ready.
- 4. Ceramic tiles are made of natural raw materials. Just like the raw materials, they exhibit unique veining and colour distribution. Therefore, a single piece of ceramic tile does not necessarily resemble exactly every other piece of the same colour code.
- 5. For easy installation, purchase the same batch of tiles for one area.

But before you fix them:

- 1. Lay out several cartons of tiles to confirm a natural pleasant blend of shades.
- 2. Leave an open joint or tile gap of between 3-5 mm.
- 3. As a good practice, for polished, natural, structured or rough surfaced tiles, apply a sealant or grout release product prior to grouting and always refrain from using contrasting grout to avoid possible staining or stubborn trapped grout haze.
- 4. Ensure good housekeeping during installation to avoid maintenance issues after the work is complete. Clean all spills immediately and use mild phosphoric acid to do the final cleaning process. Mild phosphoric acid will help remove any left over grout haze residue.

To keep things spic-and span:

- 1. On specific areas, wipe with a damp cloth or sponge using multi-purpose cleaner.
- 2. Sweep or vacuum regularly. Take note that tiles are made from sand and sand can scratch the surface of tiles. Sweep or vacuum it off gently.
- 3. When mopping, ensure the rinsing water is always clean to avoid transferring the dirt from one area to another.
- 4. Textured tile surfaces may trap dirt so do undertake a more intensive cleaning regime.
- 5. Ceramic tiles do not harbour bacteria but the organism may survive in the grout lines. It's a good idea to invest in high quality grout material.

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