

SOFT OR POWDERY GROUT

Joints that do not harden or that have powdery surface residue

CAUSES	PREVENTION	CORRECTION
Failure to damp cure	Damp cure with kraft paper for 72 hours to ensure proper curing.	
High temperature, hot air flow or dry environment.	Control loss of moisture in rapid drying and windy conditions.	Installations not properly damp cured initially may be damp cured later: often with good results.
Exposure to freezing within three days.	Install and cure within recommended temperature ranges. Protect from freezing.	Apply grout hardener such as Morgan's <i>Grout Seal</i> .
Cleaning with highly concentrated acid cleaners.	After 10 days, if acid cleaning is necessary, pre-soak with water and clean with Morgan's <i>Floor Prep</i> or other manufactured cleaner with controlled acid effect. Thoroughly rinse and neutralize.	Grout damaged by freezing must be replaced.
Use of old or damp grout that is partially hydrated before mixing. Contaminated water or sand. Retempering the grout mix.	Use fresh materials from factory sealed bags and clean, potable water. Have questionable materials tested. Store grout in dry protected areas.	
Improper proportioning of grout ingredients.	Follow TCA Handbook for proper proportions of grout ingredients or use factory prepared grout.	
Improper selection of grout for specified use and size of joint.	For manufactured grout, use grout recommended for the specified use and size of joint.	
Improper mixing or failure to slake grout.	Use slow-speed mixer not exceeding 300 r.p.m. Allow grout to slake.	
High absorption of tile, preventing proper hydration of grout.	Pre soak highly absorbent tile or use a grout designed for highly absorbent tile.	
Foreign materials in the joint, such as dust, plaster, gypsum, joint compound, etc.	Thoroughly clean foreign materials and debris from joints before grouting.	
Excessive liquid in mixing and/or cleaning.	Accurately measure the liquid according to manufacturers' direction for mixing and avoid use of excessive water in grout clean up.	
Petroleum-based sealers applied prior to hydration of grout.	Allow grout to hydrate prior to applying petroleum-based sealers such as Morgan's <i>Grout Seal</i> .	
		<p><i>Note: Use of latex modified Portland cement grout offers added protection from powdery and soft grout joints.</i></p> <p><i>These suggested corrections and/or a combination of suggested corrections may provide improved conditions and a serviceable product. There is a correlation between the Causes and Prevention columns.</i></p>