

WATERLESS GROUT CLEAN UP

As you all know by now, grouting issues command, a lot of my time. Readers of the V.I.P Tiler will know I am always searching for answers and solutions to on going issues. I still believe too much water is used in the initial mix and clean up. Other key factors are the applicator and sponge. Sanded grouts are less of a problem because of joint size and the sand in the mix giving you an abrasive action in the clean up. Architectural / Polymer modified grouts are a different story however, especially dark colours. So the next time you use this grout on the following applications try something different.

SCENARIOS

- ★ Glass Mosaics - All joint sizes
- ★ Polished Porcelain - Fine Joints
- ★ Porcelain Tiles - Fine Joints
- ★ Kerlite - Fine joints
- ★ Rectified Tiles - All joint sizes
- ★ Some Ceramics - To 3mm joints

The following method has been touched upon when we have talked about Double Grouting, hence some similar points. So here we go, First of all you will need the following.

STEP 1: PURCHASE THESE TOOLS: SCOURER AND PAD SET



B.A.T
RAI-RGFH
Applicator



Medium
Light
Duty
Floor Pad



Heavy Duty
Floor Pad



Kerlite
Porcelain
Rectified



Glass
Mosaics
Polished
Porcelain



NOTE- White not included in Pad Set

STEP 2: Ensure the grout joints are clean, free of adhesive etc. and a uniformed depth.

STEP 3: Mix the grout to a toothpaste consistency or a bit thicker. Let it slake for 5 minutes then re-mix add water **NOW** if required, not half way through the job.

STEP 4: Apply grout using the Applicator pictured ensuring excessive amounts of grout are removed from the tile surface, utilizing the sharp edge of the Applicator. Keep an eye on the grout and residue on the tile surface as it dries off. Select one of the Pads and start rubbing in a circular motion, the grout residue should be removed from the tile surface as you move the scourers over the tiles giving you an abrasive action.

NOTE: If it smudges, the grout/residue is still too wet, wait a bit longer. Once you have finished sweep or vacuum up the dry grout residue/powder. The advantages of this method are as follows.

1. No water being used which is ideal for dark colours. You don't get oxide dilution giving the white bloom look caused from "Over Washing".
2. No water being used helps stop efflorescence/ polymer migration being promoted to the grout surface.
3. You get a full grout joint flush with the surface of the tile with no pin holes and an even textured joint, because you are not removing the grout from the joint via the wet sponge.
4. You will save time and a mess.

On the other side I believe you should check the grout application the next day or a couple of days later for hardness. All things being equal it should be fine or tell the owner to wait a couple of days then simply apply water via a mop or spray to "Hydrate the Grout". Especially on exterior applications or in the middle of summer. Please if you want more information call me or give me some feedback on your job..