

WHEN IN DOUBT ! DON'T GROUT

Well here I am again on my favourite topic GROUT!!. In my travels on site this issue is still number one . A lot of tilers I speak to "Not V.I.P Tilers" don't realize when you lay square edge tiles = rectified, the grout must finish flush with the tile surface. The Australian Standard AS 3958:1 2007 Guide to the Installation of Ceramic Tiles, states this. The only exception to this is , if you tool your grout joints the depression created by this process can be no deeper than 1mm . I regularly see washed out joints, in a commercial situation eg> high traffic areas airports, shopping centres and sports stadiums the grout must be flush or near as possible. If you adopt the water less clean up system that was featured in the August edition you can achieve this. Be careful out there because I know there are some jobs that are under evaluation by other industry bodies. Grouting of cushion edge tiles " Pictured" the grout must be finished at the cushion.

GROUT TO
THE
CUSHION
EDGE



I believe using the correct tools is a big help. Another point is, you can not leave grout residue or dust on the tile surface, the job must be left as it would be presented in a tile show room! Hey this is not me saying this it is in the Australian Standards, more and more I deal with consumers who are not happy because of these points plus other issues.

Dogs V's Grouts



Some time ago I wrote an article on this topic and in recent times this issue has popped up on more than one occasion . Being the front man for Morgan Adhesives I have to deal with upset owners of dogs when I tell them the dog or dogs that live in their house are damaging your tiles and more so your grout. They don't like hearing this, they often take offence !! some get very abusive also, it even gets worse when I tell them Morgan's, policy is "We don't give any Guarantee for this problem". To give you some insight into this issue I will explain. Grout contains cement and minerals when mixed together to a formulation you achieve a structure = a product. This product can be used in many ways by different people under different climatic conditions. When the product is set it achieves a hardness. This hardness can vary so much depending on how it has been mixed, used and treated. As you all know cement goes through a hydration process which ultimately determines its hardness and longevity . Cement based sanded grout on the "MOHS Scale" = " Method of hardness scale" is around 2.5 diamond being 10.A dogs claws/nails are also around 2.5 on the MOHS Scale, you would think things being equal my grout should handle it ! ,and in a



lot of cases it does, however if there are pin holes in the grout, if the grout has been mixed with a high speed agitator or the hydration process has been cut short then there is potential for failure. Here is the scenario, picture a cartoon on T.V your dog is asleep on his bed in the living room, then a knock at the front door, the dog jumps up, legs pads and claws looking for traction on your tiled floor to run to the door. Now it all changes, we have speed and impact and sometimes sand/dirt on the floor which adds friction, if the grout has the above problems the resistance level is compromised and the structure starts to brake down. The grout needs everything going for it such as.

1. Mixed to a toothpaste consistency at application.
2. Mixed with an additive (Regular only).
3. Worked into the joints properly.
4. The joints must be brushed out prior to the adhesive setting for a full joint.
5. Tooling of the joints is a must this compacts the grout for performance and provides a smooth surface.

I also get asked: **Question:** Should I use an Aquapoxy Grout? Aquapoxy Grout can be used however this grout is for hygiene purposes rather than hardness it does not retain the smell of urine like cement based grouts. Aquapoxy Grouts have a chemical cross link structure unlike cementitious grouts. So yes they are stronger , but it's not bullet proof and does not suit all situations. I believe smaller grout joints are better for obvious reasons the sharpness of the claw can not get a hold and start breaking down the surface



GEOFF'S SPIEL

Dear V.I.P Tilers,
Well finally our Web site is live, Peter our chemist and our web master have a way to go, however it is taking shape so have a look, www.morganadhesives.com.au
The price of our Aquapoxy Grout is set to rise again, we don't put prices up just for the sake of it, the raw materials have gone up 40% in some case's ! We have no control on this.
So if you have quoted on work coming up please let your customer know. Thank you to Chris and the staff at Plumb Tech "Berri's " for allowing Morgan's to be a part of your Trade afternoon, I enjoyed it . As you will notice this months V.I.P mail-out is all about grout. I believe it is important to cover this topic for all the NEW members of the V.I.P Tiler , we have had over fifty new members join in the past couple of months.

Congratulations to our November winner V.I.P Tiler David Jo
V.I.P# 4029

on winning the Work Clobber Voucher to the value of \$200.

Till next time
Keep Safe
Cheers Geoff



Congratulations

V.I.P Tiler: David Jo

V.I.P # 4029

On winning
Work Clobber
voucher
valued
at \$200



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Our lucky winner for
December
will receive a
beautiful
Christmas Hamper

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V.I.P Tiler

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