

Which Porcelain Tile Is Best

There are two basic types of porcelain tiles: glazed porcelain tiles and through-bodied porcelain tiles. Depending on your needs and intended purposes, both types can offer you superb floor and wall coverings.

Through bodied porcelain tiles are naturally hard and dense. They are composed of sand, clay and other natural minerals making them tough on the inside and out. Because of these inherent properties, they are best used for building countertops, floors and wall coverings because of their distinctive styling and superb resistance against chips and scratches. And because they are less porous and non-slippery, they are also popular options for kitchen and bathroom floors and other areas where water spillage is common. These tiles are widely used for commercial and residential purposes all across the country.

Glazed porcelain tiles, meanwhile, are rigid and watertight tiles that are popular because of their glossy and stain-resilient surface. Glazed tiles are composed chiefly of porcelain with a glaze coating applied to its surface. The tiles can provide the most exquisite colours and can help bring the best out of your homes decorative and stylistic qualities. The majority of decorative tile displays and murals use glazed tiles because of their distinct beauty and appeal. While porcelain tiling is pretty durable, it's not a popular option for commercial porcelain tile installation. They are often restricted to residential use only.

What Are Porcelain Tiles Used For

Porcelain tiles are suitable as flooring because of their distinct absorption rate that is less than 0.5 percent. And since the tiles are compact, they are stronger and more resilient to staining. Many houses have porcelain tile installation in floors and outdoor areas.

How Durable Is Porcelain Tile Flooring

In the world of floor and wall coverings, porcelain tiles are the undisputed king in terms of durability. The tiles are heated at extreme temperatures resulting in an extremely rigid, durable, and stain-resistant tile that is impenetrable to moisture. They can be installed in the harshest of places and can withstand cold, rain and extreme weather conditions for an extended period of time.

Are Porcelain Tiles Good For Outdoor Use

Porcelain tiles are perfect for outdoor use. As a matter of fact, they are so tough that porcelain tile floors can be used outdoors in virtually any type of climate. And just like their ceramic counterparts, porcelain tiles can either be glazed or unglazed. The

unglazed tiles follow the colour of their clay components, which means they come with natural earthy tones that are perfect for outdoor styling. Glazed tiles, on the other hand, can be pretty much any colour and can replicate the visual appeal and texture of genuine stone at a much lower price.

How Long Do Porcelain Tiles Last

Porcelain tiles are one of the longest lasting floor and wall covering materials not only in houses but also in commercial buildings. An exceptionally glazed porcelain tile with PEI 4 or 5 can last for an entire lifetime of use with the right porcelain tile installation. However, this doesn't mean that every porcelain tile in the market will have such a long lifespan. Low-quality products can suffer from continuous wear and tear and fade quickly in heavy traffic areas. Poor quality tiles will need to be replaced after 20 years. Still, it's an impressive lifespan, and when properly maintained and taken care of, ordinary porcelain tile flooring can last for decades even after heavy use and exposure from the elements.

Is Porcelain Floor Tile Slippery

Just because it's shiny and glossy doesn't necessarily mean it's slippery. Regardless of whether you are young, old or disabled, the possibility of slipping from a shiny floor tile is pretty much the same as it would with matt tiles. If there is liquid on the surface, this can affect the slipperiness of the flooring no matter the material and finish. Also, it's important to note that anyone can slip on any floor tiling if you step on them at the wrong angle with your bare feet.

With that being said, it would truly be a shame if you deny your home polished porcelain tiling purely because you are worried about slipping. Glossy porcelain tiles bring can bring in the sense of warmth and radiance into a room and provide a distinctly luxurious feel and ambiance to its finish. There is little to no difference between a shiny porcelain and polished ceramic when it comes to slipperiness. With the proper porcelain tile installation, your home will look amazing and cause you no harm and hassle.

Why Use Porcelain Tiles

Porcelain is a lot more dense than ceramic and has a much lower moisture content, making it perfect for both walls and floors thanks to its extremely durable nature. A ceramic tile is pressed at 300kg/cm², whereas a porcelain tile is pressed up to 500kg/cm². By increasing the pressure during the pressing process, voids and cavities within the bisque are reduced which makes the tile less porous and suitable for external use. The low absorption rate also means that it's ultra-hygienic and stain resistant too.

Porcelain tiles have a much longer average lifespan than ceramic tiles too – providing they’re kept under ‘normal’ conditions, they will last for hundreds of years (a general rule of thumb says 1mm of thickness = 100 years wear. By way of comparison, ceramic tiles will endure for around 3 – 20 years (dependant on ‘traffic’).

Whilst it’s not unusual to use ceramic tiles on floors, the durability and hardwearing qualities of porcelain tiles makes them a popular choice. Not only that, developments in tile printing technology has meant that there are now a huge variety of porcelain tiles available that faithfully replicate natural materials such as slate, marble, and timber, as well as man-made composites such as concrete and even ferrous metals, only minus any of the associated maintenance.

Natural stone, slate, and timber all requires quite some effort to install, whereas tiles that replicate these materials are far easier to fit. Most porcelain tiles can be cut using a dry tile cutter and waste and mess is minimal.

The great thing about natural effect porcelain tiles is that they do not require sealing once they’ve been installed (unlike real stone/wood etc), meaning that you’re good to go once your adhesive has set and you’ve grouted.

Cleaning and Maintenance:

If you want to keep your porcelain tile floors in superb condition, cleaning it at least once per week would be ideal. Just wipe the tiles with a soft microfibre mop or vacuum with a soft brush cleaner. Then after a month of use, you can treat it with recommended commercial cleanser using a sponge mop. Then rinse it thoroughly with plain water, and then dry the surface completely using a towel or a microfiber cloth. There are numerous porcelain tiles and for each type, you can use these cleaning methods:

Porcelain tiles are known for their unmatched durability, but there are certain products and methods that you need to avoid such as:

Refrain from using products that have ammonia or bleach or any kind of acid-based cleanser as these can change the colour and visual appeal of your porcelain tiling

Avoid using oil-based detergents or wax cleaners as they can get mixed up with dirt and become extremely hard to remove when hardened

Don’t use steel wool in cleaning the tiles. Tiny parts of steel can get stuck up in the thin cracks of the tile and will eventually cause rust stains

Never use hard bristle or scrub brushes as they can damage the surface of your porcelain tiles