
DARKENING OF GROUT JOINTS IN WET AREAS

Portland cement grout darkens when wet. This is especially noticeable with colored sanded grouts that remain dark while wet in areas such as shower stalls, steam rooms, sunken tubs, pools and spas. In shower stalls, the floor and the first several rows on the wall areas will darken immediately after getting wet. These areas will remain dark until the water evaporates or drains out.

Shower areas may dry leaving a dark or discolored look to the shower base and stall due to contaminants that may be present in the water. These contaminants include soap, shampoo, conditioner, soap scum, body oils, hard water minerals and dirt.

Improper drainage or insufficient slope may prevent proper drying. Blocked weep holes at the shower base may allow moisture to collect in the lower areas of the stall. Slow drains will allow standing water to collect in the lower portion of the stall, which can leave stains from dirty or soapy water.

Normal cleaning is usually sufficient to remove surface accumulation. Use a neutral TileLab® cleaner with a nylon scrub pad or brush. Installations that experience hard water spotting or deep deposits can be cleaned with a mild solution of TileLab® Sulfamic Acid Cleaner. Please contact Technical Services for additional corrective procedures.



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