

# Porcelain Tile FAQs

Have you considered porcelain tile for your flooring or countertops? If so, you might have a few questions about the material. Find the answers to the most frequently asked questions about porcelain tile here.

## What is porcelain tile?

- Porcelain is made by firing purified clay using a high compacting pressure. The material is extremely dense and durable.
- Porcelain tiles are manufactured in either a glazed or through-bodied format. Through-bodied porcelain tiles can be finished with or without polish. Glazed tile is typically made using brighter colors or patterns than unglazed porcelain.



## What's the difference between porcelain and ceramic?

- As a finished material, porcelain is harder and more versatile than ceramic. The density of porcelain makes it better suited for foot traffic.
- Porcelain also absorbs much less water than ceramic, so it is thought to be a better choice for kitchens and bathrooms.

## What's the difference between porcelain and stone?

- Stone floors are made from a variety of earth-sourced materials.
- When compared to stone, porcelain tile floors are harder and more resistant to scratches, abrasion, and thermal shock. Stone also requires frequent cleaning.

## Features & Use

### What are the benefits of porcelain tile?

- Porcelain tile is a timeless material that offers a look of character and warmth in both homes and commercial spaces. The material is available in virtually any color or pattern.
- It is strong, scratch-resistant, heat-resistant, and frost-proof. Porcelain requires very little maintenance and is easy to clean.



## Where can porcelain tile be installed?

- Porcelain tile can be used for floors and countertops in kitchens and bathrooms as well as fireplaces, showers, bathtubs, and backsplashes.
- Some people opt for unpolished porcelain for floors to prevent slipping.

## Care & Maintenance

### How long does porcelain tile last?

- Porcelain tile is considered to be a very durable material. With proper maintenance and in the right climate, it can last for decades under heavy foot traffic.
- The product comes with varying PEI (Porcelain Enamel Institute) ratings, which indicate how durable the tiles are. A rating of 1 usually means that the tile is not strong enough for foot traffic and should be used for countertops or decorative accents. A rating of 5 represents extreme durability and a longer lifespan.

### How do you clean and maintain porcelain?

- Porcelain is a stain-resistant material that requires minimal maintenance.
- Porcelain tile floors should be swept or vacuumed regularly. Spills should be wiped up with a damp cloth. Tiles can be cleaned using a neutral pH-concentrated tile cleaner such as Miracle Mira Clean #1 All Purpose Cleaner. Products containing acid or ammonia should be avoided. Floor Factors carries cleaning products for each of our flooring and countertop materials.
- Although porcelain is a non-porous material, the grout used in between each tile is water-absorbent and can expand in high humidity.

## What Products & Services Does Floor Factors Offer?

Floor Factors is your full-service resource for all your remodeling needs. In addition to a wide variety of flooring and countertop materials, we also offer window treatments and cabinets. **Our services include:**

- Free estimates
- Material matching
- Installation
- In-house design consulting
- Demolition

If you'd like to learn more about porcelain tile or any of the other flooring and countertop materials we carry, give us a call at **503-222-9393** or stop by our flooring store in Portland.