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Grouting Riven & Textured Tiles

The tiler must follow the procedures set out in BS 5385. We only recommend employing a skilled tiler with previous experience fixing textured tiles.

When grouting larger areas, the tiler should **NOT** mix up anymore grout than can be applied within 10 - 15 minutes, otherwise the grout will set.

The tiler **MUST** remove **ALL** of the surface grout before it sets completely, changing the water for fresh clean water and changing or cleaning the sponge at regular intervals but a minimum of every 5 – 6 m² and even more frequently 3 – 4 m² when fixing riven and textured tiles ensuring that there is absolutely no grout or adhesive residue deposits remaining on the surface of the tiles.

This process and the continuous cleaning should be followed and repeated over the whole area that is being tiled without any deviation whatsoever.

This will be more labour intensive for the tiler but it is to prevent any bonding from the grout residue and its polymers and any other similar deposits remaining within the structures on the surface.

Surface Grout and Foreign Residue Common Issues

Occasionally we will receive notification that a recently tiled wall or floor have marks appearing on the surface of the tiles.

The tiles in many instances will show patches which often appear like dirty watermarks or staining (also known as blooming) on the surface of the tiles.

These marks are **NOT A FAULT** with the tiles but grout or adhesive residue that was not completely removed with clean water at the point of installation.

See examples of this illustrated in the photographs below:



This dried surface residue ordinarily appears when it has completely set and more often because the tiles have become wet through cleaning, thus highlighting cement residues, grout stain, efflorescence and other similar deposits randomly across the top of the tiles as they become dry.

Once the grout or adhesive has dried and set it obviously becomes more difficult to remove, particularly on textured tiles which by their very nature will require more effort when cleaning.

Sealing, Cleaning and Maintenance Product Suppliers

We do not recommend any specific manufacture of sealant, cleaning and maintenance products however, there are many reputable companies who have suitable products to aid in the removal of cement residues, grout stain, efflorescence and other similar deposits from the surface of tiles. Many of these companies will also offer professional technical support and advice.

We have listed some of the leading manufactures below:

Lithofin – www.lithofin.co.uk | **LTP** <http://www.ltp-online.co.uk/> | **HG International** – <https://uk.hg.eu/>