



Why Tile?

Ceramic tile has been around for centuries and with today's technology there are many design and application possibilities that were not available a decade ago. If it has been a long time since you have looked at tile possibilities you will be amazed at the variety of sizes, shapes and new textures that are now available.

Ceramic tile is a natural product made up of clay and a number of other naturally-occurring materials. Glazed ceramic tile has a ceramic coating applied to the tile body, which gives the tile a shiny appearance.

- ❖ **Durable** - a properly installed ceramic tile will outperform and outlast nearly any other floor covering product created for the same application.
- ❖ **Easy Care** - glazed ceramic tile resists stains, odors, and dirt and can be cleaned up with a damp mop, sponge or common household cleaners.
- ❖ **Scratch Resistant** - Grade III and Grade IV glazed ceramic tiles are extremely resistant to scratching and you never have to worry about a cut or tear as with other types of floors.
- ❖ **Environmentally Friendly** - ceramic tile is manufactured using natural materials and does not retain odors, allergens, or bacteria.
- ❖ **Beautiful and Versatile** - modern ceramic manufacturing technology has created virtually an unlimited number of colors, sizes, styles, shapes and textures that add rich beauty and character to any room décor.
- ❖ **Fire Resistant** - ceramic tile doesn't burn nor emit toxic fumes. A lighted cigarette, when dropped on the floor, even if allowed to sit, will not do any damage. Even hot kitchen pans or skillets will not scorch or melt the surface of glazed ceramic tile.
- ❖ **Water Resistant** - most glazed ceramic tile has a dense body that permits little or no accumulation of moisture. This means spills from common liquids is not a big concern.

Other types of tile available are:

Unglazed Floor Tile (Pavers) -

There is no glazing or any other coating applied to these tiles. Because these tiles are porous it is recommended that a special coating/sealant be used to maintain this type of floor and to help prevent stains from seeping into the pores of the tiles. Their color is the same on the face of the tile as it is on very durable tiles that do not show the effects of heavy traffic.

(Over for More Tile Facts)

Unglazed Floor Tile (continued) -

The most common unglazed tiles are the red quarry tiles or the granite looking porcelain in heavy commercial areas.

Marble -

Marble is a natural product and is not made in a factory. For this reason no two pieces of marble look the same and the veining is a natural character trait. There are special marble sealants to help protect from staining of the face. Extra care should be used when cleaning and all abrasives and acidic cleaners should never be used for cleaning marble. Colas, some juices and possibly ammonia may destroy the marble finish.

Granite -

This is another natural stone and is not manufactured in a factory. Granite can be used indoors or outdoors and is less porous than marble. It is still recommended you use a sealant to protect the finish from staining.

Saltillo Tile -

This is a Mexican tile made of unprocessed clays.

Listello -

A narrow tile used to accent field tiles.

Ceramic Mosaic Tile -

Tiles that are less than 6 inches facial area and may be either porcelain or natural clay composition.

Quarry Tile -

Tiles made from the extrusion process from shale or natural clays and usually are 6 inches or more in facial size and come unglazed.

Wall Tile -

Glazed tiles with that are designed for indoor use and generally non-vitreous.

Porcelain Tile -

Porcelain tile is denser and less porous than ceramic tile and highly resistant to moisture, odors and even harsh cleaners. For homeowners, porcelain tile is especially resistant to staining, scratches, fading and is available in both polished and matte finishes. Porcelain also comes in a wide variety of sizes, colors and textures.

Slate Tile -

Slate is a natural product that was formed millions of years ago. Slate must still be hand split to reveal its warm earth tones and weathered veining; therefore each piece has its own unique design with no two pieces being the same. Slate has long lasting durability and is virtually maintenance free.