STONETECH® Maintenance & Care

Dzek + Formafantasma: Excinere Porcelain Tiles with Cement or Epoxy Base Grout

MCI 104

NOTE: For all recommended products: read the entire product label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area with a 24-hour cure time to determine ease of application and desired results. Avoid skin and eye contact. Always wear appropriate safety equipment during product use.

NEW INSTALLATION PRE-GROUT TREATMENT

Some ceramic, porcelain, and quarry tiles are porous or have a textured surface which would benefit from sealing prior to grouting.

A simple water test can be performed to identify if the tile is porous. If the tile darkens after applying water to the surface and waiting for 5 minutes the tile is absorbent and applying a sealer prior to grouting may aid in clean-up after grouting. Typically, ceramic, porcelain, or quarry tile which does not darken with water has a low absorption rate, so a single application of sealer is sufficient as a pregrouting treatment. Matte finish or textured porcelain tile may also benefit from a pre-grout treatment.

For a pre-grout sealer application:

STONETECH BulletProof® Sealer

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area with a 24-hour cure time to determine ease of application and desired results. Make sure the surface is clean and free of waxes and coatings. STONETECH® BulletProof® Sealer may be applied to damp surfaces one hour after standing water has been removed. Surface temperature should be between 50°F - 90°F (10°C - 32°C). Ensure that the area is well-ventilated during application and until the surface is dry. Avoid heavy foot traffic, children, and pets in the treated area until fully dry.

1. Shake well with cap closed.
2. Mask off any surfaces not intended to be treated.
3. Apply a liberal, even coat with a paint pad, roller, brush, or low-pressure sprayer. Product may appear opaque or milky when applied but it will dry clear. Ensure to work in manageable sections.
4. Allow the sealer to penetrate the surface for 10-15 minutes. During this time, keep the surface wet with sealer, adding more sealer as needed. DO NOT ALLOW SEALER TO COMPLETELY DRY ON THE SURFACE.

5. At the end of the dwell time, thoroughly wipe the entire surface dry with clean absorbent towels, a floor machine fitted with cotton bonnet or any similar absorbing technique that removes all remaining sealer from the brick surface.
6. A second coat may be needed for porous, absorbent surfaces. If a second coat is required, it should be applied within 30-40 minutes from the initial application as directed in steps 3-5.
7. If sealer residue appears, reapply a small amount of sealer to the affected area. Allow it to dwell for 3–5 minutes, then agitate the surface with a white nylon scrubbing pad to loosen the residue. Wipe the area completely dry with a clean, absorbent towel.
8. A full cure is achieved in 24-72 hours. Use of the treated surface may resume in 6-8 hours. If use of the surface must resume sooner, cover the treated surface with red rosin paper to protect it until full cure has been achieved.
9. Clean tools used during application with water.

Refer to DS 282.0 for more information.

SEALING AND PROTECTING:

Ceramic, quarry and porcelain tiles have traditionally been impervious to liquid stains from both oil and water-based materials and most do not require sealing. However, there are now porcelain, quarry and ceramic tile that may exhibit porosity and can benefit from sealing. Test the tile for porosity (see the section “New Installation Pre-Grout Treatment” for directions) or consult with the tile manufacturer to determine if sealing is required.

STONETECH BulletProof® Sealer (Applies to tile which will accept a sealer):

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area with a 24-hour cure time to determine ease of application and desired results. Allow new grout installations to cure for at least 72 hours before application. Make sure the surface is clean and free of waxes and coatings. Sealer may be applied to damp surfaces one hour after standing water has been removed. Surface temperature should be between 50°F - 90°F (10°C - 32°C). Ensure that the area is wellventilated during application and until the surface is dry. For best results, keep heavy foot traffic, children, and pets out of the treated area until completely dry.

1. Shake well with cap closed.
2. Mask off any surfaces not intended to be treated. Mask off any surfaces not intended to be treated.
3. Apply a liberal, even coat with a paint pad, roller, brush, or low-pressure sprayer. Product may appear opaque or milky when applied but it will dry clear. Ensure to work in manageable sections.
4. Allow the sealer to penetrate the surface for 10-15 minutes. During this time, keep the surface wet with sealer, adding more sealer as needed. DO NOT ALLOW SEALER TO COMPLETELY DRY ON THE SURFACE.
5. At the end of the dwell time, thoroughly wipe the entire surface dry with clean absorbent towels, a floor machine fitted with cotton bonnet or any similar absorbing technique that removes all remaining sealer from the stone surface.

6. A second coat may be needed for porous, absorbent surfaces. If a second coat is required, it should be applied within 30-40 minutes from the initial application as directed in steps 3-5.
7. If sealer residue appears, reapply a small amount of sealer to the affected area. Allow it to dwell for 3–5 minutes, then agitate the surface with a white nylon scrubbing pad to loosen the residue. Wipe the area completely dry with a clean, absorbent towel.
8. A full cure is achieved in 24-72 hours. Use of the treated surface may resume in 6-8 hours. If use of the surface must resume sooner, cover the treated surface with red rosin paper to protect it until full cure has been achieved.
9. Clean tools used during application with water.

Refer to DS 282.0 for more information.

REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Routine, daily maintenance of tile surfaces will involve keeping dirt, dust and other soiling from building up. Spills, food, and other potential staining materials need to be cleaned up in a reasonable period of time. Regular sweeping and light damp mopping is advisable. For larger installations these processes remain the same; only the scale will change.

Highly alkaline, acidic, ammonia based, abrasive cleaners, or bleach may damage some stone, tile and/or grout surfaces and may also degrade an applied sealer, adversely affecting stain repellency. The use of a gentle cleaner specifically formulated for stone, tile and grout maintenance is the best assurance of not harming the tile, grout or degrading any applied sealers.

Removal of epoxy grout hazes, stripping topical coatings, acrylic finishes, or heavy waxes:

STONETECH® Epoxy Grout Haze & Coating Stripper

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of application and desired results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Ensure the work area is well-ventilated during application and until the surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area until surface use resumes. Avoid contact with surfaces not intended to be treated. Avoid applying in direct sunlight. Should not be used in extreme temperatures. Recommended application temperature range is between 50°F - 90°F (10 °C - 32 °C).

1. SHAKE WELL BEFORE USING. Do not dilute before applying.
2. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection during handling and application to prevent skin and eye contact.
3. Liberally apply an even coat of STONETECH Epoxy Grout Haze & Coating Stripper over the required area with a paint brush, mop, or paint pad. DO NOT APPLY WITH A SPRAYER. Immediately remove STONETECH Epoxy Grout Haze & Coating Stripper from unintended surfaces with a wet cloth to prevent potential damage to those surfaces.
4. Application time will vary depending on the type of coating being removed. Approximate application times are as follows:

Haze / Coating	Surface Type	Age of Haze/Coating		
		24 Hour	7 Days	> 7 Days
Epoxy Grout Haze	Tile	1 – 3 minutes	3 – 5 minutes	10 minutes
Epoxy Grout Haze	Natural Stone & Masonry	1 – 3 minutes	3 – 5 minutes	10 minutes
Coatings *	Tile	1 – 5 minutes		
Coatings *	Natural Stone & Masonry	1 – 5 minutes		10 minutes

5. Do not let STONETECH Epoxy Grout Haze & Coating Stripper dry on the surface. If STONETECH Heavy Duty Epoxy Grout Haze & Coating Stripper starts to dry, add additional product to keep surface wet.
6. Agitate surface with a nylon scrub brush or pad after testing a small area first to make sure that brush or pad will not scratch the surface. Surface can be wet with water to enable easier removal of coating.
7. Wipe up residual STONETECH Epoxy Grout Haze & Coating Stripper Coating Stripper with clean, dry cloth or wet mop. A wet/dry vacuum can be used for larger areas.
8. Rinse the surface well with clean water.
9. More than one application may be required, repeat steps 3 through 8 when necessary.
10. Surface traffic may begin 2 hours after removal of coating.

Refer to DS 116.4 for more information.

Maintenance Cleaning

Both routine damp mopping and monthly scrub cleaning of tile surfaces can be accomplished with STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner. Cleaning can be accomplished using a bucket and mop while a wet/dry vacuum is helpful for cleaning big floors. For commercial applications, a swing machine fitted with a brush or pad, or an auto-scrubber will help maintain larger installations.

For routine cleaning of tile and cement grout with a cleaner:

STONETECH®Stone & Tile Cleaner (Concentrate)

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear and gloves when handling concentrate. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Dilute STONETECH Stone & Tile Cleaner (Concentrate) with warm water according to the following mixing chart:

Use	STONETECH® Stone & Tile Cleaner (Concentrate)	Warm Water
Light Duty	1 part	64 parts
Heavy Duty	1 part	32 parts

2. Apply mixed solution with a damp mop, sponge, or appropriate professional cleaning equipment.
3. Clean entire area with mop, changing cleaning solution often to ensure that soil is not redeposited. Wipe or rinse cleaned area.
4. Let the area dry completely before using.

STONETECH®Stone & Tile Cleaner (Ready-To-Use)

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear and gloves when handling concentrate. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Spray or pour directly onto soiled area.
2. Wipe clean with a dry towel, lint free cloth or sponge. No need to rinse.
3. Repeat for heavily soiled areas using a non-abrasive scrubbing pad.
4. Wipe clean with a dry towel.

Refer to DS211.0 for more information.

RESTORATIVE DEEP CLEANING

Stone, tile, and grout installations can become heavily soiled over time. Restorative cleaning processes will help return these surfaces to a more acceptable appearance.

The following restorative surface cleaning processes are done in preparation for resealing or for specialized surface cleaning circumstances. These cleaning processes should not damage the surface of the polished terrazzo or agglomerate marble. However, these types of heavy-duty cleaning methods may degrade or strip many sealers from the application.

Depending on the type of soiling or staining, select one of the following options:

For spot or small area deep cleaning:

STONETECH DeepKlenz™ Cleaner

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Test in a small inconspicuous area to determine required results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear, gloves, long sleeves, and long pants while handling concentrate. Ensure the work area is well-ventilated during application and until the surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying. Recommended application temperature range is between 40°F - 100°F (4°C - 38°C).

1. Thoroughly wet surface by directly spraying onto soiled area.
2. Allow STONETECH® DeepKlenz™ Cleaner to work on the surface for 5-10 minutes. Do NOT allow product to dry on the surface.
3. Lightly scrub with a stiff bristle brush to remove the surface contaminants.
4. Rinse and wipe surface with clean cloth and warm water. Repeat as needed for heavy soiled areas.
5. Reseal cleaned area with STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer, if appropriate.

Refer to the data sheet DS111.2 for more information.

For cleaning and removing soap scum:

STONETECH®Soap Scum Remover

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of use and desired results. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear protective eyewear and gloves. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Spray STONETECH Soap Scum Remover directly on soiled areas. Avoid applying onto unintended surfaces.
2. Wipe surface with clean, dry cloth or scrub with stiff nylon brush as needed.
3. Rinse the area well with clean water.
4. Wipe area dry with clean cloth.
5. Repeat as needed for heavily soiled areas.

Refer to data sheet DS229.0 for more information.

For cleaning and removing mold and mildew:

STONETECH Mold & Mildew Stain Remover

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of use and desired results. Be sure surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear protective eyewear and gloves. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying. Do not mix this product with other household cleaners or metals.

1. Spray STONETECH Mold & Mildew Stain Remover directly on soiled areas. Avoid applying onto unintended surfaces.
2. Clean surface with non-abrasive sponge or stiff nylon brush as needed.
3. Rinse area well with clean water.
4. Repeat as needed for heavily-soiled areas.

Refer to data sheet DS 219.0 for more information.

Removal of efflorescence, mineral deposits, and calcium-based staining:

STONETECH® Restore™ Acidic Cleaner

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine required dilution and results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Heavy duty dilution may darken some surfaces. This acid-based cleaner will etch or damage most marble, limestone, and travertine surfaces. Will etch or corrode most metal surfaces. Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear protective eyewear, gloves, long sleeves, and long pants while handling the product. Ensure the work area is well-ventilated during application and until the surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

1. Dilute concentrated STONETECH Restore™ Acidic Cleaner with warm water according to the following mixing chart:

Use	STONETECH Restore™ Acidic Cleaner (Concentrate)	Warm Water	pH
Light Duty	1 part	16 parts	1.4
Medium Duty	1 part	4 parts	1.2
Heavy Duty	1 part	1 part	<1

2. Mask off and protect any metals or other surfaces not intended to be treated. Apply mixed solution with a clean mop, or towel.
3. Agitate with a scrub brush or floor machine as needed.
4. Remove STONETECH® Restore™ Acidic Cleaner using a clean cloth, wet/dry vacuum or damp mop.
5. Rinse area well with clean water and wipe dry.
6. Thoroughly rinse all metal surfaces with clean water. Clean and rinse equipment with water.
7. Reseal cleaned area with STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer, if appropriate.

Refer to DS216.0 for more information.

For cleaning grease, oil, dirt, dry soil, or to prepare for resealing:

STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner (Concentrate)

Read the entire label before using. Use only as directed. Always test in a small inconspicuous area to determine ease of use and desired results. Be sure all surfaces to be cleaned are swept or vacuumed to remove loose debris. Avoid skin and eye contact with product. Wear protective eyewear, gloves, long sleeves, and long pants while handling concentrate. Ensure the work area is well-ventilated during application and until the surface is dry. Keep children and pets out of the area during application and drying.

The following is a restorative surface cleaning process done in preparation for resealing or specialized surface cleaning circumstances. This process should not damage the stone surface; however, this type of heavy-duty cleaning will degrade or strip many sealers from the application.

1. Dilute concentrated STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner with warm water according to the following mixing chart:

Use	STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner (Concentrate)	Warm Water	pH
Light Duty	1 part	8 parts	10.7
Medium Duty	1 part	4 parts	11
Heavy Duty	1 part	2 parts	11.3

2. Apply mixed solution with a mop, clean cloth, or low-pressure sprayer. Avoid applying cleaner on unintended surfaces.
3. Lightly scrub with a scrub brush or floor machine as needed.
4. Remove STONETECH® KlenzAll™ Cleaner using a clean cloth, wet/dry vacuum, or damp mop.
5. Rinse area well with clean water. Allow area to dry completely.
6. Some surfaces may require additional cleaning. If so, repeat steps 2 – 5 above.
7. Reseal cleaned area with STONETECH Stone, Tile & Grout Sealer, if appropriate.

Refer to DS215.0 for more information.