

Keep Grout Waterproof and Mold-proof

Tile grout -- the material used to fill the small space between tiles -- is actually very fine cement. As such, the grout is porous and can absorb water if it isn't sealed. While grout sealant is waterproof, it does wear away over time. Because tile is often exposed to water, (whether the tile is located on a floor or in a bathroom), the waterproof sealant eventually wears away, allowing water to thoroughly soak the grout, promoting the growth of mold and mildew.



How do you know if it's time to reseal the grout? If water is dripped onto the grout and the water beads up, the sealant is still waterproof. If the grout absorbs the water or turns dark, it's time to reseal. The more use an area receives, such as tile showers and bathroom and kitchen floors, the more often sealer might need to be applied.

A dry toothbrush or other small brush can be used to clean grout. Grout must be cleaned before it is sealed or dirt and grime will be covered over and encased by the sealer, making the tile look dirty. In addition, sealant does not stick well to dirty grout.

No matter what type of sealant is used, it should be wiped off tile surfaces to prevent hazy-looking tile. The sealer should be allowed to dry for at least 24 hours to effectively reseal.

