



CERAMIC TILE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.  
12061 Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230-6219

## CTIOA FIELD REPORT CTI-70-3

### SUBJECT: CLEANING UNGLAZED CERAMIC MOSAIC TILE FLOORS

This refers to Tile qualifying under ANSI A137.1 Standard Specification for Ceramic Tile.

Cleaning ceramic mosaic tile is often inadequate because of the cleaning materials and methods used. We often refer to it as cleaning over the top of dirt.

The following Do's and Don'ts should result in clean, film-free ceramic mosaic tile floors.

1. DO NOT use acid or cleaning materials with acid in them to clean the floors.
2. DO use just a trial area to see how good a job can be accomplished.
3. Wet the tile floor with clean water.
4. DO use an electrically powered scrubbing machine to clean the floors if the floors are large. Scrub brushes used by hand are adequate for small floors.
5. Use a good neutral commercial cleaner, such as Super Shine All, manufactured by Hillyards, or Miracle Cleaner by Aqua Mix Products Company. Sprinkle scouring compound, in addition to the cleaner, on the floor ahead of the neutral cleaning. If necessary, a 60 grit silica sand can be added in small amounts to help cut through the coating on the tile.
6. Rinse the floor to remove cleaning slurry. Rinsing and pick up of mop water with a wet vacuum is preferred.
7. Floors are to be polished dry with old toweling or similar polish cloths.
8. As a rule, this will do no damage and will leave clean, undamaged tile and joint unless the tiles or joints are exceptionally soft because they were not properly cured.
9. For Glazed Ceramic Mosaic Tile use the same procedure without the scouring powder and **DO NOT** use the sand.