



# Saltillo Tile

## Care & Maintenance Guidelines

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*Please consult with a qualified, local contractor for your specific project. Rustico Tile and Stone is not responsible for job-sites on which we are not contracted to perform tile installation.*

## MATCH EXISTING/OLDER TILE



Matching tiles can be difficult, but it is possible. As Saltillo floors age, the clay takes on ever-changing looks in color and texture, and grout has darkened. New tiles will naturally look brighter next to the existing tiles.

### Tips for Installing New Tile Next to Old Tile

- After installing new tile next to old tile, clean both floors with StoneClean 104 Cleaner Concentrate.
- Follow with mopping a 50/50 mixture of water/acetone across the floor. Allow to thoroughly dry.
- Seal the entire floor (old and new) with the same topcoat sealer (TerraNano Sealer recommended). This will give the floor a consistent sheen across new and old tiles. (Note: First, test sealer for compatibility on the old tile.)

### Tips for Cleaning Old/Dirty Saltillo Floors

- Scrub with gentle cleaner and brush.
- Scrub with StoneClean 104 Cleaner followed by acetone/water wash.
- Any stains may be removed by lightly sanding the surface. Follow with reapplication of sealer.

## LIME POPS & EFFLORESCENCE



These imperfections are a natural part of handmade Saltillo tile. These are not defects, but are part of rustic characteristics to be expected in Saltillo tile.

### Lime Pops

- Lime pops exist in the clay and can expose chips over time.
- These marks add a rustic appearance to the floor.
- Clean the lime pop chipped area lightly and apply a coat of sealer over the chip. This prevents clay from washing away.

### Efflorescence

- To reduce the appearance of efflorescence, do not soak Saltillo tile during the installation process.
- Apply a waterproofing membrane (HydroFlex) in wet and outdoor areas to reduce future efflorescence.
- Install pre-sealed tiles vs. unsealed tiles.
- Efflorescence can often be removed with V-Scrub, an acid-cleaner. Reapply sealer on tile and grout lines.

## IMPORTANCE OF SEALER



A quality sealer will provide a low maintenance floor for many years. Test for chemical compatibility when applying sealer to Saltillo tile floors. Allow sealer to cure for several days during the testing phase. Contact us for quality sealers that may be ideal for your project. TerraNano is our best sealer which boasts a 10-15 year lifespan.