



# CLAY & TERRAZZO

## CARE & MAINTENANCE

NEMO  
TILE + STONE

## CLAY: GENERAL CARE GUIDELINES

- **Sweep or Vacuum Regularly:** Remove dust, dirt, and grit to prevent surface abrasion.
- **Damp Mop with Mild Cleaner:** Use a pH-neutral, non-acidic cleaner diluted in warm water. Avoid harsh chemicals, acids, or bleach.
- **Avoid Excess Water:** Clay tiles are porous; excessive water can cause staining or efflorescence. Use a damp (not wet) mop and dry the surface promptly.
- **Seal Tiles and Grout:** Most clay tiles require sealing after installation and periodic resealing (every 1–2 years, or as recommended by your installer). Use a breathable, penetrating sealer suitable for clay or terracotta.
- **Clean Spills Immediately:** Blot spills promptly to prevent staining, especially from oils, wine, or acidic foods.
- **Protect from Heavy Impact:** Use felt pads under furniture and avoid dropping heavy objects on the tile.

## CLAY: STAIN REMOVAL

- **Oil-based stains:** Sprinkle baking soda, let sit, then gently scrub with a damp cloth.
- **Organic stains:** Use a poultice of baking soda and water; let sit, then rinse and dry.
- **Efflorescence:** Remove with a dry brush; avoid water-based cleaning until the issue subsides.

### Do Not Use

- Acidic or alkaline cleaners (vinegar, lemon, ammonia)
- Abrasive pads or steel wool
- Wax or oil-based cleaners (unless specifically recommended for your tile)

## TERRAZZO: INITIAL CARE AFTER INSTALLATION

- **Remove Thin Set Promptly:** Clean any adhesive or grout residue from the tile surface before it dries.
- **Allow Proper Curing:** Let thin set cure for at least 48 hours before sealing and grouting.
- **Seal Before Grouting:** Seal tiles with a penetrating sealer before grouting to prevent staining. Avoid dark or black grout, which can stain terrazzo.
- **Final Sealing:** Apply a final coat of sealer after installation and periodically thereafter to maintain protection and enhance appearance.

## TERRAZZO: ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

- **Daily:** Dust mop with a clean, non-oily dust mop to remove grit and debris.
- **Weekly:** Damp mop with a pH-neutral cleaner diluted in water. Allow the cleaner to dwell briefly, then rinse with clean water and dry with a soft cloth.
- **Spot Cleaning:** For stains or scuff marks, use a neutral cleaner and a soft cloth or mechanical buffer with a soft pad.
- **Periodic Resealing:** Reseal terrazzo tiles as recommended by your installer or sealer manufacturer to maintain stain resistance and appearance.

## TERRAZZO: HEAVY SOILING & RESTORATION

- **Deep Cleaning:** Use a bristle brush or power scrubber with a neutral detergent for heavily soiled or textured surfaces.
- **Avoid Harsh Chemicals:** Do not use acidic or alkaline cleaners, abrasive pads, or oil-based sweeping compounds, as these can damage the floor or alter its color and gloss.
- **Professional Polishing:** For loss of gloss, deep stains, or restoration, consult a terrazzo professional for polishing and resealing.

## TERRAZZO: ADDITIONAL TIPS

- **Clean Spills Immediately:** Do not allow liquids to soak and dry into the floor—this can cause staining.
- **Test Cleaners First:** Always test new cleaning products in a small, inconspicuous area before full use.
- **Use Clean Tools:** Always use clean mops, water, and cloths to avoid reapplying dirt or debris.
- **Avoid Oil-Based Sweeping Compounds:** These can permanently discolor terrazzo.

## SUMMARY: RECOMMENDED CARE

SURFACE TYPE	DAILY CARE	WEEKLY/PERIODIC CARE	NOTES
Clay	Sweep/vacuum	Damp mop with pH-neutral cleaner	Seal regularly; avoid excess water/acid
Terrazzo	Dust mop	Damp mop with pH-neutral cleaner	Seal before/after install; reseal periodically