

# HOW TO GROUT

# D.I.Y

Tiling Fact Sheet



Grout selection is made very simple. National Tiles offers a range of colours for both indoor and outdoor applications. The grout colour can match your tiles or act as a contrast to a feature for the room.

## Grout for external and wet areas:

For outdoor or wet areas, include an additive that will increase the water resistance of the grout. Order the grout and any relevant additives when you purchase your tiles.

**NOTE: Before grouting, ensure the tile adhesive is dry. Allow at least 24 hours, depending on manufactures instructions.**

## YOU WILL NEED:

**SPONGE**



**LARGE SPONGE**



**GROUT FLOAT**



**DRY CLOTH**



**THIN DOWEL**



**CLEAN BUCKET**



**PADDLE POP STICK**



**GROUT SAW**



## Prepare Grout:

If the grout isn't ready mixed, mix it up in a bucket by following the instructions on the packet. For the best result, use our 4 in 1 grout additive. In a clean bucket, add the water first and then slowly mix in the powdered grout.

Consistency should be like toothpaste so that you can get the grout into the grout lines.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this fact sheet is general information only. If you need advice, you should seek professional advice based on your own circumstances.



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Ensure your area is clean and free of grit and remember to remove your spacers before grouting.

## Grout Application

**Step one:** Press the grout diagonally into the grout lines using a grout float.

**Step two:** Allow grout to become touch dry before cleaning. Using the damp sponge wash the tiles on a 45 degree angle, wiping away any excess grout. Note: Denser tiles will require longer time for the grout to dry.

Keep your sponge clean by rinsing regularly in a bucket of water. Wring the sponge out thoroughly as excess moisture can lead to white discoloration.



**Important:** All epoxy grouts must be cleaned immediately prior to curing as it very difficult to remove when dry. Use a cloth, damp with **WAX-OFF** to assist with the cleaning of epoxy grout residues.



**Step three:** Finish the top of your wall tiles with an ice cream stick, paint scraper or butter knife. Grout the top tiles on a 45 degree angle and smooth with grout float.



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### Grout Cleaning & Sealing

#### Cleaning Requirements:

Let the grout dry and then wipe the grout haze away with National Tiles **Cement-Residue-Remover (dilute 1:50 in clean water)** and polish with a clean dry cloth. For best cleaning results, check out the National Tiles online FAQ.



#### Apply grout protector:

Use the National Tiles Premium Grout Protector to protect your grout from the penetration of oil, grease, dirt and water-borne stains. It facilitates maintenance without altering the grout colour.

#### Sealing wet areas:

Use silicone sealant for the wet areas. There is a range of colours available. Do this in the corners and where water may accumulate. Make sure you have good ventilation for application.

#### Sealing Requirements:

Most tiles do not need to be sealed. All National Tiles polished porcelain tiles have been pre-sealed at the factory with "Nano technology". All other tile finishes do not require sealing. All Natural stone must be sealed; the type of sealant depends on a few factors which can be discussed with your consultant when selecting your tiles.

#### How to remove grout and re-grout:

If you are not tiling from scratch and you want to tidy up your room, consider re-grouting. This takes time but is really rewarding. Grout can hold the dirt so once it is cleaned up the job looks like new.

#### Procedure:

A grout saw or electric grout remover can be used. Scrape out the grout between the tiles. Be careful not to chip or crack the tiles.

Once all the grout is removed, wash all the grit out, dry with a cloth and then grout joints as we have already shown you.

All houses move, so to reduce the likelihood of your grout cracking, add silicone to all corners and edges.

