

Tiling – Finishing Touches

Level of Difficulty – 3-4

After you've grouted your tile and it has cured, there are a few simple steps that will finish your tile job and give you professional results.

Sealant

Seal your tile and grout with a sealer to prevent water penetration and staining of grout and porous tile. Sealant comes in satin or gloss, which can change the look of your new floor, so you may want to test it on a spare tile before applying to the entire floor. Follow directions on the sealant bottle for application timing. Do not allow sealant to pool and remain wet longer than the bottle instructs.

Base Molding

Install / reinstall any trim work or base molding, hiding expansion joints between tile and walls or other surfaces. Base molding hides most voids around the perimeter of a flooring job.

Caulk

Purchase caulk that matches your grout. Caulk comes in matching colors and comes sanded or non-sanded.

Tile expands and contracts at a rate that is different from an "unlike" material such as wood, metal, gyp board, etc. Caulk any gaps between tile and "unlike" surfaces. This will give your tile a finished look and prevent water penetration.

Flooring – Caulk between tile and cabinets, door trim, door thresholds, sliding door track, molding, tubs, showers and toilets, etc.

Showers & Tubs – Caulk the vertical joints in the corners of the shower. Caulk between the tub surface or shower pan and tile. Caulk between door molding and tile.

Counter Tops – Caulk between the counter and the wall surface, if exposed. Caulk between the tile and sink.

Backsplash – Caulk between the backsplash and counter top. Caulk the vertical joints in the corners between tiles or where the tile meets the wall surface. Caulk any visible surfaces where tile meets the under side of cabinets or molding.