

INSTALLATION **GUIDELINES**



INDIA'S LUXURY TILE BRAND

QUTONE



There are **5 Primary Steps** of Tile Laying

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Underlayment for **Ceramic & Vitrified Tile/** **Slab** Floors:

Ceramic & Vitrified Tiles/Slabs are paradoxically very strong and at the same time somewhat delicate. These materials are very hard and durable only when installed correctly.

Since these products are Fragile in nature, even minute errors in installation may cause severe and unrepairable damage/breakage, during or post installation.

The surface beneath the Tile play very important & vital role for the performance & durability of Floor Tiles. Thus the surface preparation for flooring is of great importance, Undulations, levelling, crack filling, proper bedding before laying the Tiles/Slabs should be carried out with highest precision & accuracy.

QUTONE recommends the use of adhesive of class C3E according to EN12004 and SI according to EN12002 standards.

Please check the Tiles/Slabs thoroughly for any kind of manufacturing defects, colour & design uniformity etc. before laying / cutting the Tiles/Slabs for installation.

Make sure to carry out the inspection under the same lighting conditions that are similar to the area of Installation.

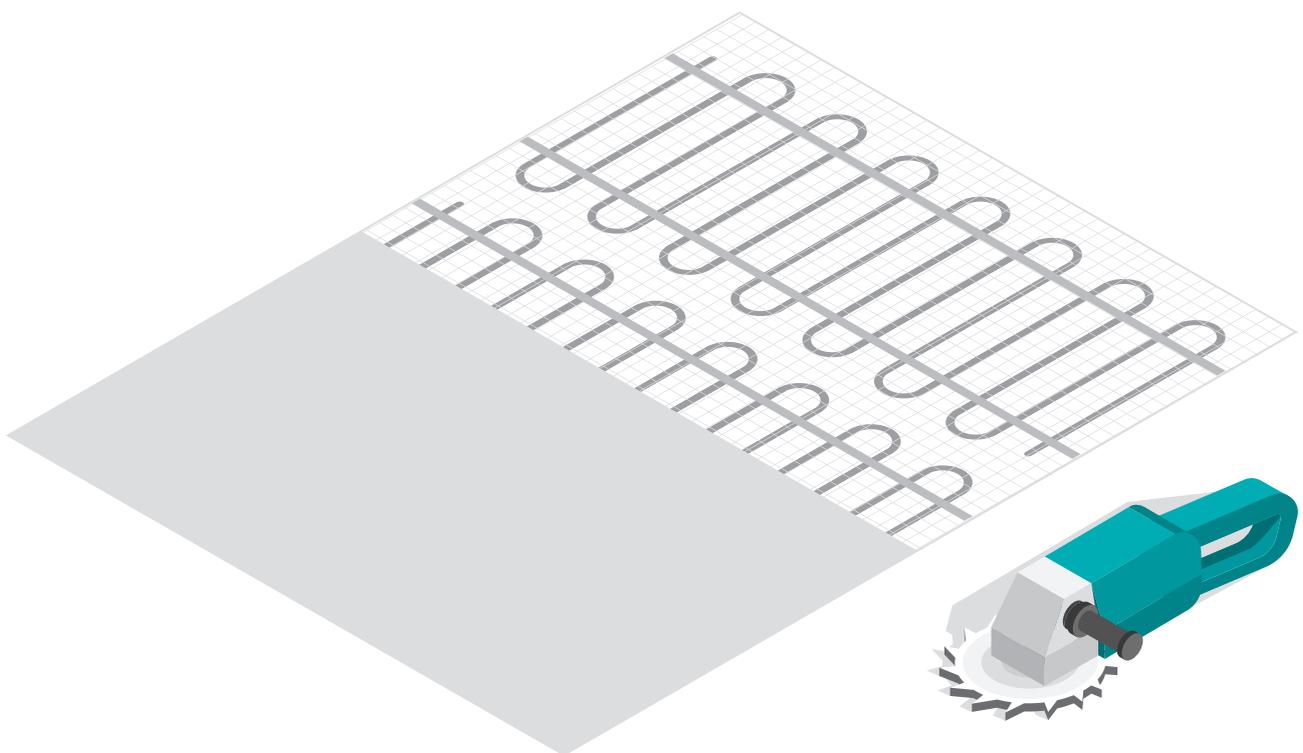
We recommend that you don't blend Tiles/Slabs from different batches or sizes.

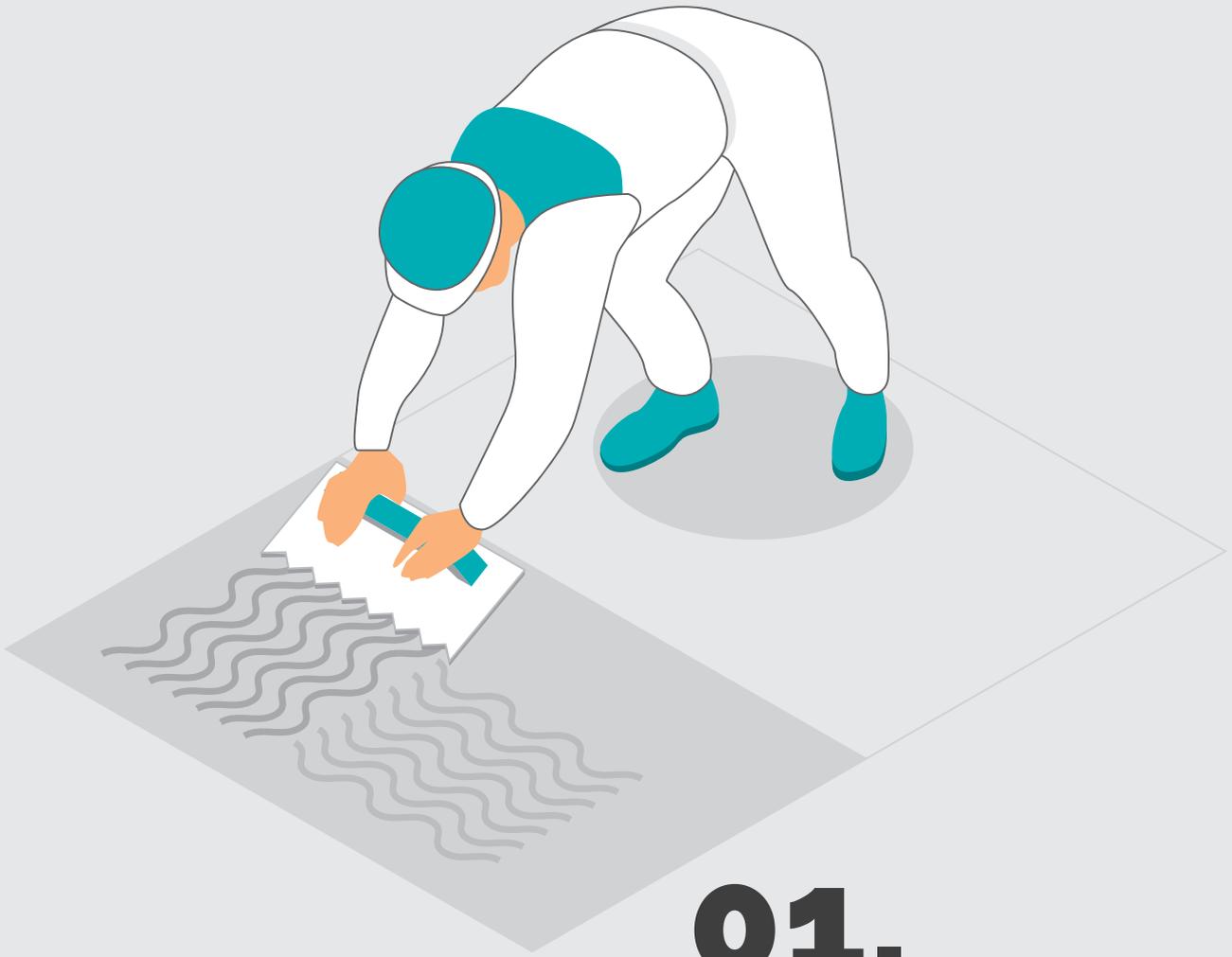
Please read the Laying Instructions printed on the Tile/Slab box carefully and advise the Tile Settler to adhere to the guidelines provided by the Tiles and adhesives manufacture as well.

Please note that Size & Shade Variation is inherent characteristic of any Kiln Fired product. Hence, Slight variation in Colour & Size is bound to be there in any Ceramic / Vitrified Tiles and Slabs.

Positive Bend (Center Curvature) is a functional property of Ceramic/Vitrified Tiles & Slabs. It is kept there by design as per the permissible limits in International / ISI Standards specification and is not a defect.

We take utmost care to provide products with minimum deviations, remaining well within the allowed limits as per the Technical Specifications widely followed by Ceramic Tile Manufactures Globally.





01.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Plaster the surface of the floor/wall to be tiled smooth and complete the plastering and curing at least two weeks prior to tiling.

The surface on which the tiles are to be laid should be clean and free from dirt and loose particles to avoid contamination. Before laying floor tiles on old mosaic and cement floors, the floor should be clipped with a chisel or sharp tool so that the surface is sufficiently nailed to grasp the mortar.



02.

DRY LAYING

It is highly recommended to Dry Lay the Tiles/slabs before installation, to ensure perfection in appearance, design & colour uniformity and to overcome any possible defect while carrying out actual installation.

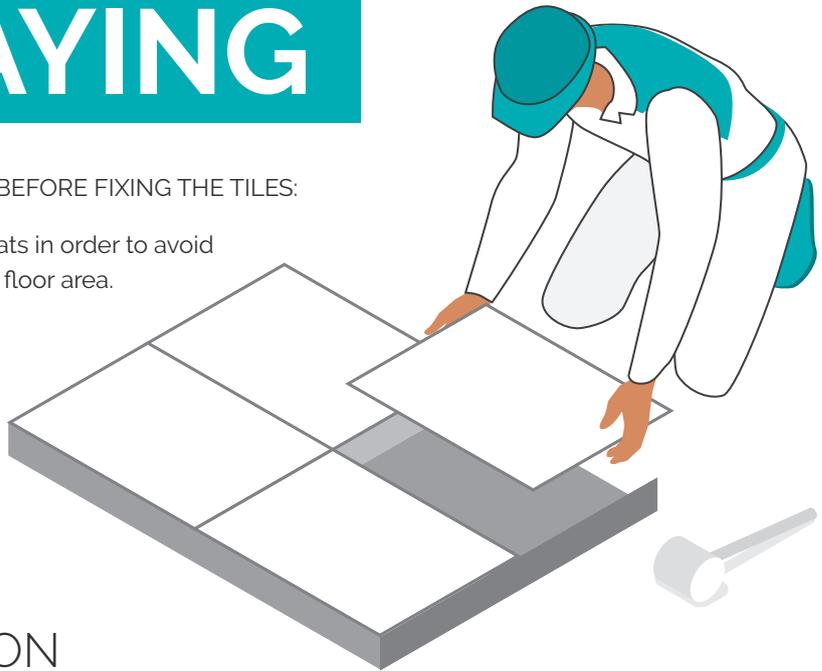
Tiling should preferably be started from the center area so that cut tiles, if any, come only on the sides. Arrange tiles in the desired layout to ensure that there are equally cut tiles at either end. Proper gradient of floor should be provided for ease in drainage & ensuring avoidance of water accumulation.

QUTONE recommends laying of Tiles/Slabs with adhesive. Proper care should be taken in terms of selection of adhesive according to intended area/use of Tiles or Slabs. Various adhesive for varied application are available in the market. Proper market consultation with adhesive supplier is recommended. Follow the instruction of tile adhesive manufacturer for laying Tiles/Slabs.

TILE LAYING

TAKE CARE OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS BEFORE FIXING THE TILES:

- Entry and exit points should have doormats in order to avoid abrasive dust particles from entering the floor area.
- Avoid movement on damp surface
- Avoid pulling heavy, pointed or sharp objects on the flooring surface



INDOOR INSTALLATION

Make sure to leave 2-3 mm space between the tiles. Create movement joints every 25 mtrs. or as directed by an expert. The adhesive must be applied to the back of the tile and the substrate with a notched trowel.

OUTDOOR INSTALLATION

Try to keep movement joints of 4-6mm at all the sides of the Tile/Slab. Create movement joints every 9-12 mtrs. or as directed by an expert. Always respect the building's structural joints while laying the tiles.

It is mandatory that the tiles be installed with a large joint between each of them. The width of the joint must be calculated based on the local climate conditions, the tile size and flexibility of the substrate.

Use of proper mortar/adhesive and proper tapping & levelling of Tile/Slab is very important to ensure that there are not hollow space between Tile/Slab and sub floor – as the hollow area beneath the Tile/Slab surface may lead to breaking of Tiles/Slabs despite the high strength and durability of the product.

TILE OVER TILE INSTALLATION

Ensure that the old tiles are fixed properly. If not, remove any unsecured tile and fill the gaps with suitable mortar. Before laying, wash the old tiling with water and soap to get rid of any dust, grease or other impurities and let it dry.

Apply bonding resin before tiling over the old tiles. After this step, follow the instructions for indoor or outdoor installation. For fixing the tiles on wall dado, we strictly recommend the use of adhesive. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions for the same. We do not recommend the use of sand and cement for fixing Tiles/Slabs.

Mark and lay the tiles from the center of the area to be tiled so that cut tiles, if any, will be on the outer edge towards the wall. It is advisable to maintain a gap of 1 mm to 2 mm between adjoining tiles to allow possible expansion as per BIS/EN tolerance norms.

GROUTING

04.

QUTONE highly recommends all Tiles/Slabs to be installed with a joint gap of 3-6mm depending up on the size, application area, intended use of the Wall/Floor surfaces and the local climate & substrate.

All joint gaps must be filled with Synthetic, Epoxy, Polyurethane or Silicon Grouts depending up on the application area and intended use of the Wall/Floor surfaces.

It is advised to follow application instructions of the grout manufacturers.

For specialized application and functional performance of Tiles/Slab surface, adequate consultation of expert, Civil Engineer, Architect is advised.

For Aesthetic look and enhancing the beauty of the finished surface, selection of adequately matching or constructing grout colour should be selected.

The surface must be cleaned with damp sponge to remove residuals of grout to stick around to grout is settled/curved.



INITIAL

CLEANING

05.

After laying the Tiles/Slabs, the surface may contain residuals of cement mortar, adhesive or any other fixing/grouting material. This can seriously affect the appearance of the Tiles/Slabs and impact the aesthetic outlook.

Hence, initial cleaning, immediately after the masonry work is done is of great importance.

It is necessary to clean the surface with wet sponge before grouting material has hardened. We recommend use of an acid decalcifying product as well.

Once the grout is settled for 24 to 48 Hrs. Clean the surface with detergent, Tiles cleaner. Rub the surface rigorously to obtain maximum cleaning. After cleaning, rinse thoroughly with plenty of water to remove all the traces of cleaning agent, detergent used.

While carrying out the cleaning process, refer and adhere to the cleaning advise/instruction of the adhesive & grout manufacturers carefully.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

For commercial and heavily used surface areas such as airports, hospitals, supermarkets and any public space with heavy pedestrian traffic which are thus subject to considerable soiling, it is necessary to use automatic cleaning machines with suction of the washing liquids.

This not only allows deep cleaning, but also the continuous removal of liquids containing substances that cause soiling, thus preventing the formation of films which are very difficult to remove.

Any detergent can be used in the desired concentration for cleaning the high technology products, with the exception of HYDROFLUORIC acid (HF) or its compounds, according to UNI-EN 176 standards. In order to keep costs limited and speed-up maintenance operations, the concentration of the detergent must always be as low as possible. For raised floors we suggest to choose bright or polished surfaces in large sizes: these materials can be dry-cleaned or with the minimum use of liquids.

After the floor is laid, it is necessary to make very accurate initial cleaning with proper products.

DETERGENTS

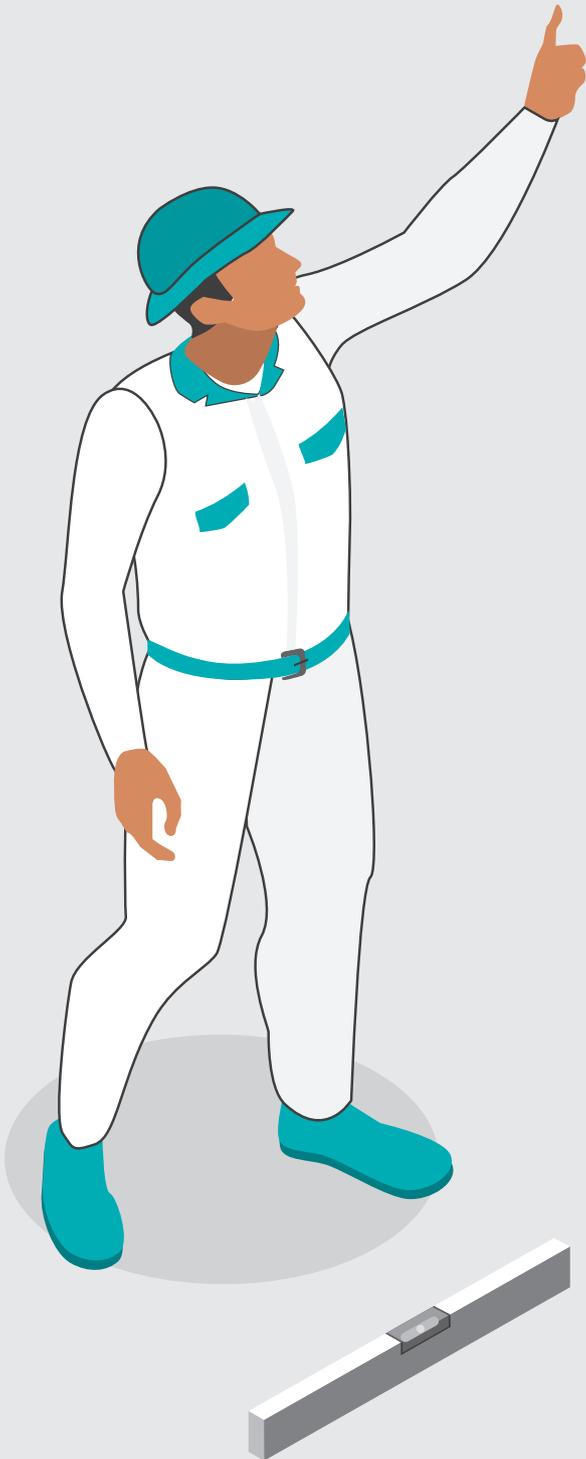
The detergents are essential when laying new materials on old floors and for preparing the support surface perfectly as well as after installation to remove all traces of cement, adhesive or sealant from the newly laid materials.

MATT MATERIALS

For these materials, after completing the steps described in the section "Initial Cleaning", you only need to clean the floor with hot water containing small quantities of an alkaline detergent. On these types of surfaces, it is not advisable to apply waterproofing product: the absence of porosity causes the waterproofing agent to deposit on the surface in an uneven way and to have unpleasant aesthetic effects.

GENERAL

ADVISE



Tiles/Slab Installation is more of a Technical & Specialized work rather than just a Tile Fixing. Hence we recommend to hire professional & skilled Tile Settlers for fixing the Tiles on your Wall, Floor or Cladding surfaces.

No product can compensate the poor workmanship but a good workmanship can surely enhance the aesthetic look of the product and amplify the beauty of your ambience and work surfaces.

Tiles and Slabs are aesthetic products intended to decorate your work surfaces, besides providing hygienic & protective covering. It is advised to look at them from an adequate viewing distance to have true contemplation of Designs.

PRODUCT QUALITY ISSUES SUCH AS SHADE/COLOUR VARIATION, SIZE VARIATION, SURFACE QUALITY, LINE MATCHING, DESIGN CONTINUITY, BEND (CENTER OR EDGE CURVATURE), DAMAGE DURING TRANSIT & HANDLING CAN BE CHECKED & VERIFIED BEFORE THE TILE/SLAB IS INSTALLED.

POST INSTALLATION SUCH ISSUES NEITHER CAN BE VERIFIED NOR RECTIFIED. HENCE COMPANY DOSE NOT ENTERTAIN OR ACCEPT ANY CLAIM RELATED WITH SUCH ISSUES IF THE TILE/SLAB INSTALLATION IS DONE.

Post installation, issues like crazing, cracks in glazed surface or body (Except due to mechanical damage, faulty installation, work area conditions, unintended use of product) can be considered by the company as product complaints.

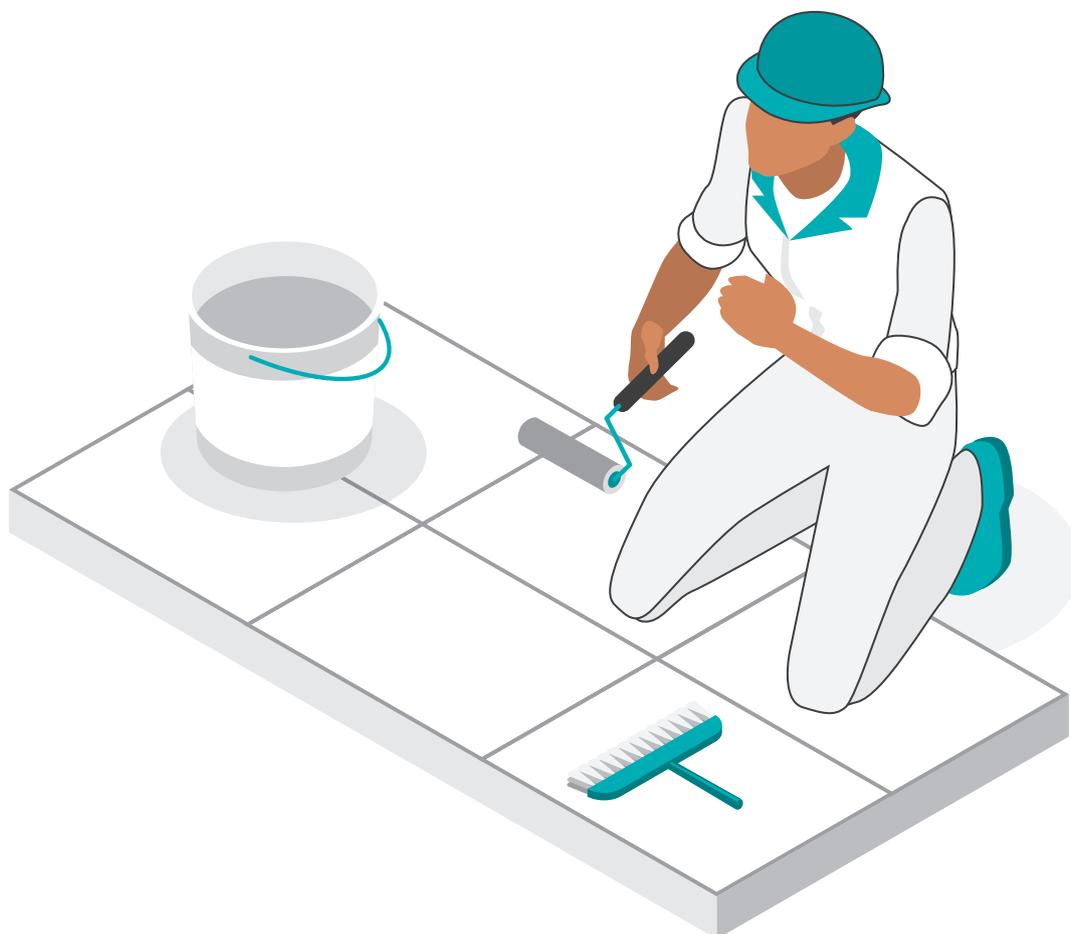
CARE &

MAINTENANCE

Thanks to the characteristics of the production process (high firing temperature, raw materials of great quality, sinterization process), the surface of the **QUTONE** Tiles & Slabs slabs are waterproof (the water absorption is minimum). Therefore the dirt cannot penetrate, but it is necessary to remove it from the surface.

For cleaning the surface, do not use detergents containing waxes or waxing products. In order to avoid the forming of greasy layers, for choosing the most appropriate detergent, refer to the following table. After the installation of floors, particularly those made with polished materials, the surfaces should be adequately protected with particle board or other suitable materials in order to protect the surface from dirt and damage due to on-site processing.

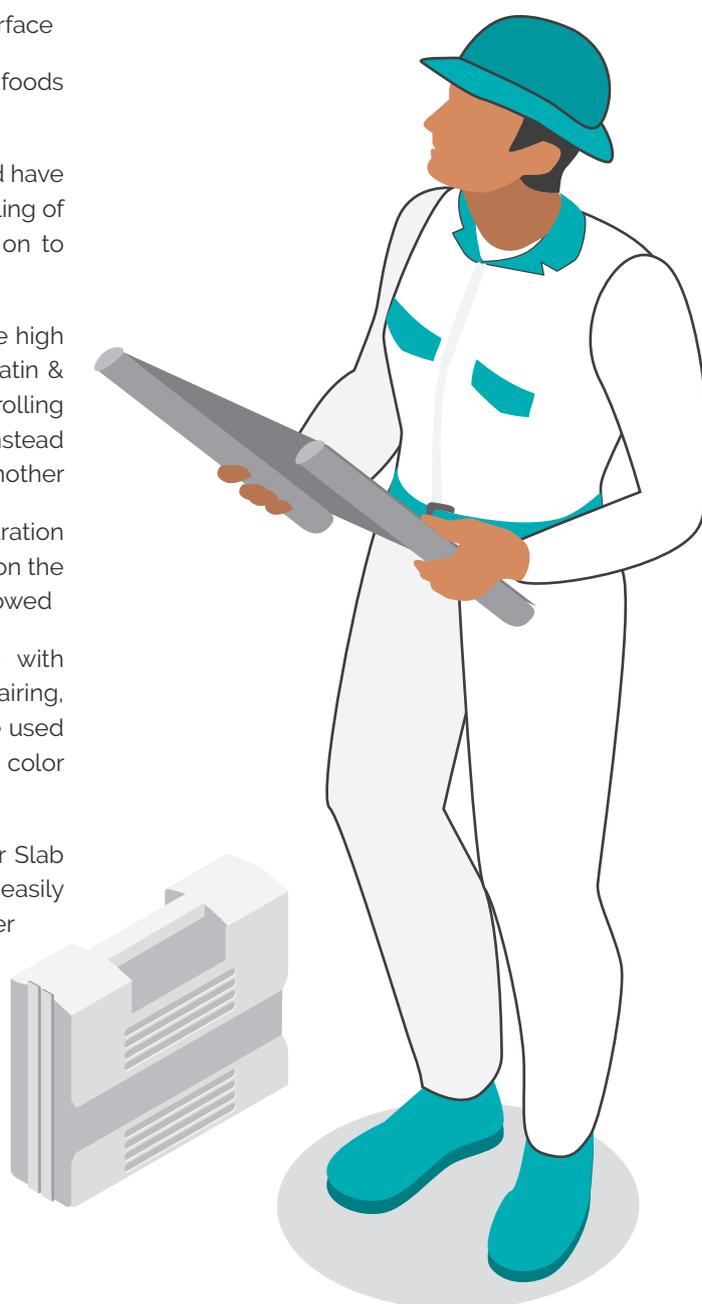
Below are some of the substances indicated to remove stains. The instructions are grouped by type of product and do not contain references to specific detergents. However, these features are clearly indicated on the labels of detergents available in the market.



CARE

ADVISE

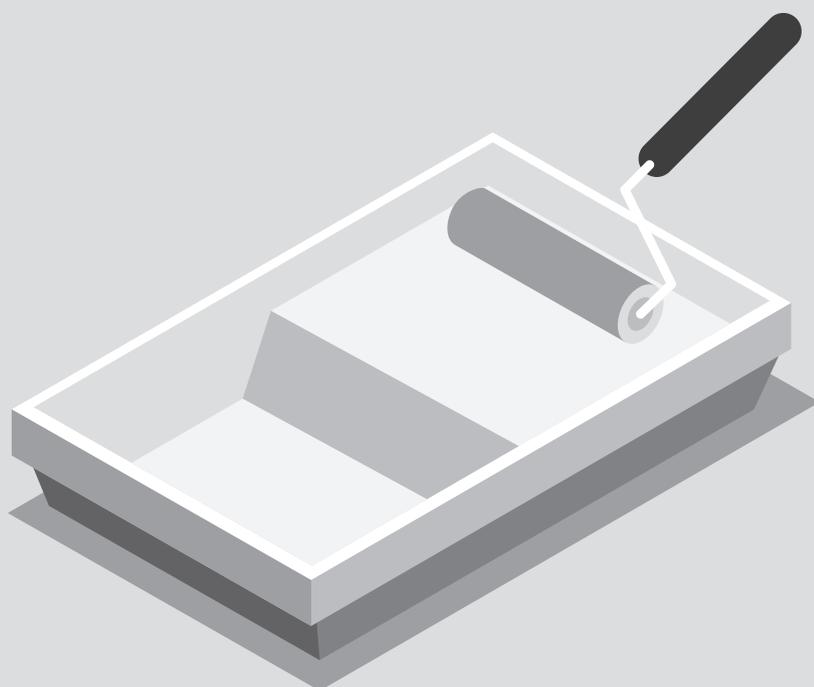
- 1) QUTONE** Tiles & Slabs are high temperature resistant. However, it is always advisable to use an adequate pan-support whenever hot cookware should be placed on the slab surface
- 2)** Use a chopping board to cut/prepare foods instead of bare Tile/Slab surfaces
- 3)** Qutone Tiles & Slabs are very tough and have high impact resistance, However- avoid falling of sharp object /heavy substances directly on to the surface
- 4)** Qutone Tiles & Slabs matt finishes have high scratch resistance compare to polished, satin & pearl finishes. However, avoid dragging, scrolling or moving heavy objects on the surface. Instead lift & move the objects from one place to another
- 5)** Avoid using strong acids high concentration of floor cleaners. Manufacturer guidelines on the use of floor cleaners should be strictly followed
- 6)** Possible breakages can be repaired with adequate and specific resins. Before repairing, check that the colour of the resins that are used for the reparation operations and the slab color are the same
- 7)** If stains have contracted on the Tile or Slab surface for a short time, they can be easily removed with the use of a rag and hot water
- 8)** Avoid movement on damp surface



CLEANING

ADVISE

Cement adhesive	- Acidic detergent
Grouting remnants	- Acidic detergent
Organic stains	- Alkaline detergent
Felt pen	- Solvent (Methylated Spirits, Acetone, Ethanol)
Rubber remnants	- Alkaline detergent, Solvent
Pencil marks	- Soft rubber
Grease and dirt	- Bicarbonate and water
Dyes	- Dilute bleach solution
Iodine or bromine Blood	- Acidic detergent, hydrogen peroxide or dilute bleach solution, ammonia
Silicone	- Hydrogen peroxide or dilute bleach solution
Coffee, tea, food, fruit, juice or make-up	- Vitro-ceramic hob scraper, Cloth soaked in acetone. Normal detergent dissolved in hot water + hydrogen peroxide or bleach





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