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TILE SHOWER MAINTENANCE

Tiled shower stalls - whether ceramic or natural stone - represent a very delicate and demanding environment, because of the heavy-duty nature of their use. There is quite a difference in use between the walls of the bathroom outside the stall, and the same walls inside it! Because of that, the first real and utmost concern is that the installation is done properly, because a poor executed installation will inevitably lead to an expensive failure. Besides all the plumbing work (which also includes the shower pan) and the proper sheeting with the right material (no green-boards, there!), it is important that a provision of 1/16" gap (the thickness of a round toothpick) in between tiles is made, to grant for proper grouting. While in the walls outside the shower stall an installation "butt-jointed" (that is without any gap in between tiles) is acceptable and, I concede it, prettier too, the same type of installation inside the stall will mean a virtually sure installation failure. In fact, the grout would only bridge the bevel where the tiles meet, but won't have any "root". As a consequence, with the hot water hitting those grout lines day in and day out, plus the heavy-duty cleaning that's typically necessary inside a shower enclosure, that "ornamental" grout will first soften, then come out. The consequence of that is that the water will start finding its way in between tiles and, by gravity, accumulate under the tiles of the shower floor creating all sorts of problems that, eventually, will call for a total remaking of the shower stall.

Assuming that your shower stall was installed properly (please, every so often, do monitor your grout and caulk lines, and address any problem immediately!), DON'T use any cleanser, either in a powdery or creamy form. DON'T use any generic soap film remover, such as 'TILEX SOAP SCUM', or "X-14 SOAP SCUM", or the likes on your polished stone shower stall. DON'T use any generic mildew stain remover, such as "TILEX MILDEW

STAIN REMOVER", or 'X-14 MILDEW STAIN REMOVER" or the likes on your polished stone shower stall. DON'T use any magic self-cleaner, such as "SCRUB-FREE" and the likes, or any harsh disinfectant, such as "LYSOL".

DO clean your shower stall daily. The easiest way is to use one of those windshield-cleaning tools (the one with a scrubbing net on one side and a squeegee blade on the other side). After everybody has taken a shower, spray the walls and floor of the stall with a diluted solution of water and Mb-5, scrub swiftly, then squeegee. When eventually you will notice an accumulation of soap film (especially on the lower part of the walls and on the floor pan) that looks and feel like wax, use "Mb-3" Soap Film Remover. To clean it off, Mb-3 was specifically formulated to be effective at doing the job of cleaning soap scum and hard mineral deposits, while not interacting with the chemistry of natural stone.

If, over time, some mildew will appear on the grout lines of your shower enclosure, DO clean the mildew stain with "Mb-9" Mildew Stain Remover. This product, too, has been formulated to be safe on natural stone, while very effective at removing mildew and other biological stains.

Should you wish to have more detailed information about the above recommendations and products, send an email to brentd@dewolftile.com. Do mention the name of the product.