

Ask Jon Eakes

Removing spots from ceramic tiles

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Kim from Mississauga, Ontario has strange spots and streaks all over her ceramic floor, and they seem to be getting worse the more she cleans them. We consulted with a ceramic tile manufacturer to see what might be happening and I was rather surprised to learn that many ordinary cleaners can actually eat the glazing off of tiles, creating spots and streaks in the unglazed portions of the tiles. Plain vinegar and water will actually eat the glaze. And even dish soap can do damage. I never thought that ceramic floor tiles were so delicate. The recommendation was to use only "floor tile cleaners" -- products that are specifically labeled for glazed floor tiles. Now all I have to do is find out what is in the "floor tile cleaner" so you don't have to always buy brand products. Anybody know?

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