



TECHNICAL BULLETIN #133

Regarding: Stain & Mold Resistant Grout

General Overview:

Can a grout be stain proof? The answer is No. Many manufactures make the claim that their grout is stain proof; however, someone can always find something that will stain a grout. A stain is something which will sit on or embed into the grout causing a discoloration. Sometimes the discoloration is actually where that stain damaged the surface of the grout. A grout that is stain resistant is one that will allow more time for stain clean-up to the surface of the grout before it creates damage. In comparison, a non-stain resistant grout will stain freely and is more likely to get stain damaged.

Can a grout be Mold resistant? Yes, a cement based grout is naturally mold resistant. Mold and Mildew cannot live or grow on cement, this is a misperception because soap, cleaning fluids, oil, food, and other contaminants are left on the surface of the grout, feed the mold and mildew, and allow it to grow. Once the source of food for the mold and mildew has been removed; the mold & mildew should not return.

Merkrete offers several options for Stain and Mold Resistant grout. Those options are Merkrete ProGrout and Merkrete ProEpoxy, both of these products contain "Mold Shield" to create a barrier that will help prevent mold and mildew from growing on the grout. Also, the chemical composition of Merkrete ProGrout and Merkrete ProEpoxy make the grout Stain Resistant to common household stains when appropriately cleaned, (**see Technical Bulletin #132 "Care & maintenance of Merkrete Cementitious Grout"**). The testing conducted for Stain Resistance was according to ASTM C267. The test results show that Merkrete's ProGrout and Merkrete's ProEpoxy are superior to other grouts on resisting common household stains.

An alternative to using the ProEpoxy or ProGrout is the Merkrete Grout Sealer. Merkrete Grout Sealer is not a grout; it is to be used as a topical layer on grout for stain protection. For Additional information please reference the Merkrete Grout Sealer product datasheet.

Sealers are always optional but recommended to further protecting grout from staining. However, they must be maintained and reapplied every so often depending on location, exposure, and use.

Surface Preparation: All surfaces must be between 40° F (4° C) to 95° F (35° C) and structurally sound dry, clean and free from oil, grease, wax, paint, old adhesives, sealers, and curing compounds. Any contaminates which inhibit proper bond must be removed. All substrates should be plumb and true, surface deviation should not exceed 1/4" in 10'.

Installer / Owner Responsibility:

The installation of ceramic tile must be done following installation standards published in the current (TCNA) Tile Council of America handbook, ANSI (American National Standards Institute) 108 specification and our data sheets.

Visit our website at www.merkrete.com or call the Technical Department at 1-(800) 226-2424 for additional information.