

## Cleaning Grout

David Dener of Valley Stream Lane suggested this article

Whether you've got tile floors, kitchen backsplashes, or bathroom tile, the grout between tiles can get pretty grimy. With the right cleaning solution and a bit of elbow grease, (your wife may have some of that, I know I don't) you can get your grout looking fresh and brand new.

Tile grout gets dirty in many different ways. In the bathroom, it's usually mold or mildew causing the grout stains. In the kitchen it could be a combination of food stains, general household traffic and grime, and mildew. Maybe even wine if you didn't get the cork out right! For some stains, simple household items like vinegar or baking soda can be effective cleaners. Combine baking soda with a small amount of white vinegar and use a small brush or old toothbrush to scrub your grout, and then rinse with warm water. Spray or dab the cleaner onto a small length of grout and scrub with a stiff brush. Scrubbing in small circles rather than straight up and down will remove more debris from the grout.



Rinse well with water and mop up the remaining moisture with a sponge or paper towels. A great product for grease and dirt stains can be found in the Dollar Store. It is called Awesome, does a great job on many things and guess what? It cost a dollar!

Ask first, I love to do that! Wipe off glass right away though.

If your grout hasn't come completely clean, the next step is to try a commercial tile and grout cleaner. These are available wherever home cleaning products are sold. To get the

best result from a commercial cleaner, spray it on and let it sit for a few minutes before scrubbing. Follow the directions on the label of the product to clean effectively.

For heavy duty stains, use even stronger products such as oxygen bleach powder, hydrogen peroxide, or chlorine bleach. I would try the peroxide before the bleach. The bleach should be well diluted before use. Or try this, spray shaving cream on stained grout, leave it on for a few minutes and scrub with a small brush. To clean mildewed grout in tub and shower enclosures: Scrub with a solution of one part liquid chlorine bleach to five parts water. Use a bristle brush and agitate. Let sit for 5 minutes and rinse thoroughly. I found Tilex to work well on those pesky pink and black mold stains but open the window and let it soak for awhile. Never mix cleaners together! Chemical reactions can cause noxious fumes or burns if the mixture touches the skin. When your tile grout is completely clean, keep it looking fresh and new by applying a coat or two of grout sealer. There are various types of grout sealers available for different uses, such as floors or bathroom tile. Make sure you purchase the correct type for the grout you'll be applying it to. Reapply the grout sealer at least once a year, or more often if necessary. I got a lot of the above off the web. Now, regrouting and caulking... well, that's a whole different subject. Maybe for the future for the daring.

John Bartolomeo of Ivy Hill Road gave us a great tip. Seems like Koke's contractors used Bradco Supply Corp Millwork for trim and locksets for our homes. So if you want matching floor or door trim and locksets, they have the exact replacements. Find them at 691 New Hampshire Ave, Lakewood, NJ 08701 (732) 905-9355, thanks John.