



Technical Bulletin # 117

RE: Darkening of grout joints in wet areas: showers, steam rooms, tub enclosures, etc.
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Portland cement grout darkens when wet. This is especially noticeable with colored sanded grouts which remain dark while wet in areas such as shower stalls, sunken tubs, pools and spas. In shower stalls, the floor and the first several rows on the wall areas will darken immediately after getting wet. These areas will remain dark until the water evaporates or drains out.

Shower areas may dry out leaving a dark or discolored look to the shower base and stall due to contaminants that may be present in the water. These contaminants include soap, shampoo, conditioner, soap scum, body oils, hard water minerals and dirt.

Improper drainage or insufficient slope may prevent proper drying. Blocked weepholes at the shower base may allow moisture to collect in the lower areas of the stall. Slow drains will allow standing water to collect in the lower portion of the stall, which can leave stains from dirty or soapy water.

Normal cleaning is usually sufficient to remove surface accumulation. Use a neutral cleaner with a nylon scrub pad or brush. Installations that experience hard water spotting or deep deposits can be cleaned with a mild solution of C-Clean (sulfamic acid). Please contact the Technical Service Department for additional corrective procedures.

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