



RE: Epoxy Grout Removal
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Chemical Removal:

A) Remove the "bad" grout areas with a gel grade, commercial epoxy and paint (chemical) stripper that contains the active ingredient Methylene Chloride. There are many manufacturers of strippers available at paint and hardware stores. Do not allow the material or residue to come in contact with unintended areas or surfaces.

B) Follow all precautions and directions stated on the stripper container, then place the stripper onto the grout to be removed. A ribbon of stripper placed on the joint 1/8" thick and covering the width of the grout will be sufficient. Prevent contact with skin, eyes, clothing and other items. Apply to an area that can be watched and cleaned in a 5 to 10 minute period.

C) Allow the material to stand 5 to 10 minutes, there will be an observed raising, lifting and flaking of the grout joint. At this time a chisel or screwdriver can be used to rake out the grout joint. All loose residual grout and stripper should be cleaned up and discarded.

1/8 depth to full joint depth can be removed, however 2 depth compared to the tile thickness is more typical. Additional stripper may be necessary to achieve desired joint depth.

D) Once desired depth is achieved, neutralize stripper per manufacturer's directions (TSP or soap and water in most cases). Scrub joint with the neutralizer using a stiff nylon brush. This will ensure full neutralization and loosen any

debris not raked out. Using a wet/dry vacuum, clean out neutralizer and debris. Then rinse grout joints with clean water and brush to remove any residual material. Use the wet/dry vacuum to pick up the water and debris.

E) Allow joints to dry 2 hours. No puddles or standing water should be present in joints.

Now the joints are ready to receive the new epoxy grout. Carefully follow the directions found in the literature and container.

Mechanical removal:

If you plan to mechanically remove epoxy grout, it can be accomplished with the use of a commercially available heat gun. The heat gun may be used to soften the epoxy grout. Use a screwdriver to pry out the grout while it is still pliable. Caution must be exercised to prevent personal injury or scorching of the tile.

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