

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

# PORCELAIN VS CERAMIC TILES

BY HERITAGE CERAMICS

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SPACE - AURORA SMOKE

If you are not a tiling expert, you might actually think Porcelain and Ceramic are the same, after all they do look the same and they are made out of clay. So how can they be different? Here's your chance to find out.

The main difference between porcelain tile and ceramic tile is **how it's made**. Both of them are made of **fired clay**, but **porcelain** is made from a **more refined clay** that is **fired at higher temperature** thus, it makes it **more durable** and **denser** than ceramic tile.



SPACE - CAIRO MOKA

## 01. APPEARANCE

Both ceramic and porcelain tiles are mostly manufactured with a **glazed surface coating**, that is why they may be indistinguishable at a glance.

Both are remarkably good at **mimicking natural stones** such as marble or even wood grains.

Recent innovations with tile production allow them to be manufactured to resemble different materials.

**Ceramic tile** has the edge when it comes to appearance for the main reason that is it **available in more colors** but **porcelain tiles** are superior when it comes to **surface textures and finishes**.

## 02. CLEANING AND CARE

Porcelain tile is easy to clean up by damp-mopping with a mild water soap solution.

Ceramic tile has the same care, routine damp-mopping but with a period of sealing grout joints.

Overall, both porcelain and ceramic tile have the same needs for care and cleaning.



STUDIO - GEMS GRIGIO IMPERIAL

## 03. INSTALLATION

Both tiles are installed using similar methods. However, porcelain tile may require the professional tile setter to cut properly as it is harder and more brittle.

Ceramic tile is less dense thus less durable and is easier to for do-it-yourself homeowners to cut manually.

It is generally recommended to install porcelain tiles with an adhesive which is costlier, as compared to that of ceramic tiles which can be installed with normal cement sand mortar.

## 04. LIFESPAN

Porcelain is a harder material and tend to last longer than ceramic tiles which are mechanically weaker and prone to surface crazing.

## 05. COST

In general, ceramic tile is less expensive than most porcelain tiles as it is cheaper to produce.

However, this is also dependent on the country of origin of the tile.



SPACE - SAHARA EBONY

## 07. DURABILITY AND MAINTENANCE

Porcelain tiles are denser, harder and impervious to moisture than ceramic tile. Because of its composition it is more durable and better suited for heavy usage.

If you chip a coloured body porcelain tile the color continues all the way through making it nearly invisible while if you chip a ceramic tile you will find a different color underneath making it quite visible.

As a harder material that has solid color throughout, porcelain tiles are stronger and more durable.

## 08. CONCLUSION

There is no clear winner when it comes to choosing ceramic tile or porcelain tile.

Both are similar building materials and most forms are actually suited as flooring material, wall covering or countertop surfaces but every situation and use is different it all boils down to the space itself.

## 06. WATER AND HEAT RESISTANCE

Porcelain tile is denser and has excellent resistance to heat making it a good choice for countertop surfaces and it is also heavier and more impenetrable to water thus making it a good choice also for outdoor location.

Ceramic tile is somewhat susceptible for moisture but as long as the ceramic tile is glazed and in good condition, the surface will resist water.

Porcelain tile has better water resistance and is recommended for outdoor locations.



SHAPE - PETRA PEARL



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