

How to remove paint drops from full-body porcelain tiles?

Q. How can I remove paint drops marks from full body porcelain tiles? It is oil base and water base paint.

A. Methods for removing paint marks from full-body porcelain tiles depend on the type of paint and how long it has been there.

For water-based paint like latex or acrylic, if it's fresh, wipe it up right away with warm, soapy water and a soft cloth. If it has already dried, soak a soft, clean, white cloth in warm water, ring it out a little, and place it over the paint mark for a few minutes. This should soften the paint. Remove the cloth and gently scrape the porcelain tile with a plastic scraper. Do not use metal tools that could leave scratch marks on the tile surface. For stubborn spots, you can use a mild household cleaner or diluted vinegar in the warm water.

For oil-based paint that is still wet, removal may be much easier than dried paint. Act quickly, because the longer the paint sits, the harder it will be to remove. Blot excess paint with a soft, clean, white cloth or paper towel to gently lift as much as possible. Change out your cloth or paper towel, as needed, so that you can avoid spreading the paint around.

NOTE: Follow the manufacturer's safety precautions when using chemicals.

Dampen a soft, clean, white cloth with mineral spirits or paint thinner and gently wipe the remaining paint, working in small sections. Avoiding soaking the tile. After the paint is removed, wash the area with warm, soapy water to remove any solvent residue. Use a clean cloth to dry the surface. This process should remove wet paint completely without scratching or damaging the porcelain.

For oil-based paint that has already dried, lightly apply a small amount of mineral spirits or paint thinner to a soft, clean, white cloth. Gently rub the paint mark until it starts to lift. Use as little solvent as possible and rinse the area well with warm, soapy water afterward to remove any residue.

For stubborn or aged paint spots, try a paint remover specifically labeled as safe for use on porcelain or ceramic surfaces. Always test in an inconspicuous spot first.

Avoid abrasive pads or harsh chemicals that could scratch or dull the tile surface. Also avoid using too much solvent or paint stripper, as the grout around the tiles may be damaged.

If you're dealing with large areas, very old paint, or delicate finishes, a tile cleaning and restoration specialist, in most cases, can safely remove paint without damaging your tiles. To find a vetted PRO in your area, visit www.surfacecarepros.com and click on **Find a PRO**.

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