

Tile & Grout: Clean, Repair or Replace?

Seeing dirty or cracked grout lines and tile can sometimes be so discouraging that we think the only answer is to retile an entire wall or room. But, consider the level of deterioration before making such a decision. There are incremental steps you may be able to take to give your tile and grout extended life. Scrubbing grout or tile may be the simplest answer, but it will likely require a professional-grade cleaner or steamer. Since some heavy-duty cleaning formulas employ strong chemicals, be sure to test any cleanser in an inconspicuous spot, while wearing prescribed protection.

If some repair is necessary, it's worth noting that individual tiles or sections of damaged tile can be replaced without committing to an entirely new tile installation. However, it's not exactly a do-it-yourself job. Presuming you can find replacement tile and grout that matches, such a project requires a skillful professional to ensure a clean and "seamless" installation that does not appear like a patchwork solution.



Ordering Picture Frames Online

Thanks to smartphone technology, it's now possible to send your favourite photographs and images off to a professional framing house, without leaving your home or risking damage to a precious print. All you need is a good quality digital photograph or image from your phone or camera that you can email or file transfer. In some cases, depending on the facility (and copyright laws), you may also be able to provide a high-resolution image of artwork for framing. Of course, the higher the resolution you can send, the better the quality of the results you'll receive.

But, that's just the beginning. Before committing to a particular frame, you can now use a frame service's app to test-view your photo, poster or art in position with an entire inventory of virtual framing and matting arrangements. You can try different combinations until you find the one that works best for you. You can even see how an individual piece looks on your wall or plan out an entire collage or gallery presentation. If you're looking for something simpler, some framers can provide lightweight tiles with sticky backs that don't require a frame or nails. Others can send you a pre-measured kit so you can frame your art or photo yourself.

Renovations for Seniors at Home

Renovations are among the most effective ways to assist older homeowners who want to live as they choose in their own homes for as long as possible. The accelerating trend known as "aging in place" is being ably supported by improvements specifically designed for seniors, including tub and shower assist bars, seat-height toilets with rails, scald-resistant faucets and hands-free lighting fixtures. In addition, some more significant (and more costly), renovations can contribute even further towards enabling seniors who look to extend their at-home independence and productivity.

For example, stair-lifts and personal elevators can enhance mobility and improve safety for seniors currently living in multi-level homes. Also, ramps to extra-wide doorways, level thresholds between rooms, lower countertops and adjustable-height cupboards can accommodate those in wheelchairs and scooters. For those who relish independent living that includes housekeeping, a central-vac system might provide added autonomy, while a wireless medical alarm system might ease the worries of adult children whose senior parents are determined to live on their own.

