



Grout Guide — Quick Reference Sheet

STANDARD CEMENT GROUT

Sanded Grout — use in joints 1/8" or greater.

Non-Sanded Grout — use in joints 1/8" or less in width or for tile that scratches easily.

Pros

- Economic
- Forgiving to use
- All installers are familiar with it
- East to install
- Easy to clean
- A reliable and solid choice if you're on a budget

Cons

- Discoloration of Grout from color/shade variation during curing
- Stains incurred during regular use
- Should be sealed every few years

Where to Use Standard Cement Grouts

Best suited for areas that aren't likely to get wet or soiled by food. Sanded Grout is appropriate for floors, ceramic tiles, natural stone tiles, and unpolished porcelain tiles. Use non-sanded grout for wall tile, some natural stone tiles that can be easily scratched (like marble), metal tiles, glass tiles, mosaic tiles, and polished porcelain tiles.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE CEMENT GROUT

Use in joints 1/8" or greater.

Pros

- Harder and denser for better performance
- Better color consistency
- More stain resistance
- Sealer not required but beneficial

Cons

Slightly more expensive

Where to Use High-Performance Cement Grouts

Floors, kitchen backsplashes, countertops, shower enclosures, tub surrounds, and steam showers.

READY TO USE GROUT

Check with the grout manufacturer for recommended widths.

Pros

- Excellent stain & chemical resistance
- Easier to install than epoxy
- No water or mixing required
- Color consistency

Cons

- Installation in high-humidity environments can result in delayed curing
- High-quality RTU grouts can be expensive
- Because they are sanded, RTU grouts may scratch glass or some stone tiles
- Some RTU grouts can soften in high heat and humidity (like steam showers)
- Urethane-based premixes turn yellow in the sun

Where to Use RTU Grouts

Ready-to-use grouts are suitable for ceramic tiles, porcelain tiles, and natural stone tiles.

EPOXY GROUT

Pros

Consistent color

Best choice for environments where harsh chemicals are used

It is essentially waterproof

Extremely durable

Almost completely resistant to stains

Cons

More expensive than cement grouts

May take longer to apply than cement grout

More difficult to work with

Where to Use Epoxy Grouts

Backsplashes, floors, high-traffic areas, and demanding commercial environments such as healthcare, commercial kitchens, and schools.