



Material Selection Guidelines

As a general rule of thumb, porcelain tile is recommended for all exterior applications, including swimming pools, spas, water features, exterior walls, patios, and freeze-thaw environments. Due to its dense composition and water absorption rate of 0.5% or less, porcelain offers superior durability, stain resistance, and long-term performance in wet conditions.

Recommended Standards for Porcelain Tile

- ASTM C373 – Water Absorption
- ASTM C648 – Breaking Strength
- ASTM C1026 – Freeze-Thaw Resistance
- ASTM C627 – Service Rating
- ANSI A137.1 – Ceramic and Porcelain Tile Standard
- ANSI A108 – Installation Standards
- ANSI A118 – Setting Material Standards

Interior Shower Applications

For consistency and long-term performance, porcelain tile is also recommended in shower and wet-area installations. While ceramic tile may be suitable for certain interior wall applications, porcelain's low water absorption helps minimize moisture-related concerns and simplifies material selection across projects.

Using porcelain in showers provides a durable, low-maintenance solution while working in conjunction with proper waterproofing systems and ANSI-compliant setting materials.

Ceramic Tile Applications

Ceramic tile is best suited for interior dry or limited-moisture environments such as decorative walls, backsplashes, feature walls, fireplaces, and other non-submerged applications. Ceramic tile should not be specified for exterior or submerged installations unless specifically tested and approved for those conditions.

Note: From a technical specification standpoint, ceramic tile can be used on many shower walls when installed over a proper waterproofing system. However, specifying porcelain for all showers and exterior applications creates a simpler and more consistent material selection guideline.