



## All About Tile

I would be willing to bet that at some point in time most people have been faced with the decision of what type of floor covering they should put down in their place of residence. It could be due to a remodel project, new construction, or after a property loss. The options seem to be limitless when it comes to type of floor covering, making the decision even more difficult. If you are looking for an environmentally friendly and cost effective option, tile may be the solution. Tiles are made from natural clay and often from other recycled materials and there are several types of tiles that are used for commercial and residential applications. Best of all, tiles are durable and have a long life span. Below we will highlight some of the different tile options.

**Ceramic Tile:** Ceramic tile is the most common tile used in homes, stores, and offices in the United States. Ceramic tile comes in two forms, glazed and unglazed. Unglazed tile is referred to as quarry tile. Ceramic tiles are made from clay, then heated, and then the glaze is added after the firing process, which create the color of the tile. The glazing process allows for the creation of infinite color combinations. One of the reasons ceramic tile is so popular is because it is easy to clean and there is no special maintenance involved. Also unlike carpet and rugs, ceramic tile does not attract dust and dust mites which helps in reducing the number of household allergens.

**Quarry Tile:** Quarry tile is unglazed ceramic tile. It is an inexpensive, durable, and natural option for residential, industrial, and commercial tile applications. Quarry tile is found a lot in industrial applications because it is so durable and can be used outdoors. One of the benefits of quarry tile is that it is less prone to chips and scratches. Like most tile types, quarry tile is porous which means it can become stained. If you elect to install quarry tile, it is recommended that you apply a glaze-like seal or wax finish to help prevent stains and other damage. The color selections is not as vast, but there are several shades of red, orange, brown, and gray. In residential applications, quarry tile is used in kitchens and pathways, as it has a naturally coarse surface, making it less slippery than some other surfaces when wet.

**Porcelain Tile:** Porcelain tile is a type of ceramic tile. The difference between porcelain and ceramic is that porcelain is fired at a higher temperature, making it more dense and moisture resistant. Porcelain tile is also less porous, making it more stain resistant. Due to their hardness and density, porcelain tile is hard to cut which could lead to a higher installation cost. Porcelain tiles can be used in indoor and outdoor applications and come in a matte, unglazed, or a high polished finish.

**Natural Stone Tile:** There are several different types of natural stone tiles which can be used for flooring, back splashes and more. **Granite** has been used for countertops for years, and it can also be found on shower walls. Granite tiles are naturally antibacterial and are not damaged by water contact, which is why they are a great choice for kitchens and bathrooms. **Slate** tiles are growing in popularity due to their versatility. Slate is a natural material and is available in several different color ranges. Slate is used outdoor as well as indoors because of its natural look. **Travertine** is a natural beige stone and can be found in bathrooms, kitchens, and more. **Marble** is a versatile natural stone which has been used for centuries in homes to create a luxurious look. Like many of the other natural stones, marble has a variation in the color of each tile. Marble is porous and must be sealed just like all other tile types. **Sandstone** is an extremely durable tile and has a grainy look and feel. It is often used for wall applications and can be used in a floor covering application.

If you have any question on ceramic tile or natural stone tiles, please do not hesitate to give Gerloff Floors and Fixtures a call. Our team will be glad to give you more information and show you the options available. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

# May 2017

## Events

- May 2: IWSA Golf
- May 2: SAMA Luncheon
- May 3: IFMA Luncheon
- May 4: ACA Luncheon
- May 4-5: SA BOMA Open
- May 10: Hill Country M&O
- May 11: SACA Spring Seminar
- May 11: IREM Luncheon
- May 17: AASMOCA Luncheon
- May 18: Austin BOMA Luncheon
- May 18: SAABE Luncheon
- May 25: IWSA Luncheon
- May 29: Memorial Day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 IWSA -Golf SAMA Luncheon	3 IFMA Luncheon	4 ACA Luncheon -----SABOMA	5 Open -----	6
7	8	9	10 Hill Country M&O AAFAME Luncheon	11 SACA Spring Seminar IREM Luncheon	12	13
14	15	16	17 AASMOCA Luncheon	18 Austin BOMA Luncheon SAABE Luncheon	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 IWSA Luncheon	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			

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