

NEW!
Grout Boost® is now
mold & mildew
resistant



Grout Boost® Advanced Pro Stain Resistant Grout Additive

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Installation

Can Grout Boost be used with any grout?

Grout Boost can be used with any Standard Portland cement grout. However, it should not be used with grouts that already claim stain resistance, including fast setting, ready-to-use, or epoxy grout. Some of the grouts that are not compatible with Grout Boost are: TEC Accucolor XT Next Generation, Mapei Ultracolor, Custom Prism, Laticrete Spectralock and Laticrete Permacolor.

Can Grout Boost be used with any latex additives?

Never use any other grout additives with Grout Boost. Stain resistance may be compromised, clean up may be difficult, or other undesirable effects could result.

Can Sanded Grout Boost be mixed with unsanded grout?

No. The formulas are specific to the type of grout. If using unsanded grout, mix only with Unsanded Grout Boost. If using sanded grout, mix only with Sanded Grout Boost.

What is the clean up process for installing grout with Grout Boost?

We defer to the grout manufacturer's instructions for clean up. Most manufacturers require as dry a clean up as possible to avoid the possibility of efflorescence (a white chalky residue forming on the surface of the grout). If efflorescence does occur, allow the grout to cure for 10 days, and then scrub the grout joints with a mix of 50% white vinegar and 50% water. Rinse thoroughly, and dry. This should restore the color of the grout.

How long after installation do you need to wait before using the area grouted?

The installation can be walked on at 24 hours. Grout mixed with Grout Boost needs to cure for 10 days after installation before exposing it to water from mopping, showers, rain, etc.

What if the tile/stone needs to be sealed and I want to use Grout Boost for the installation?

Pre-sealing porous tile or stone will aid in the grout haze clean up step of the installation process. Be sure not to get any sealer on the edges of the tile.

If installing sealer after the grout is installed, see the list of approved sealers under the Product section on the website. Not all sealers are compatible with Grout Boost. If sealer is to be applied after grouting, allow for a 10 day cure.

What if I want to enhance or darken the porous tile/stone or grout?

If enhancing is desired once the installation is grouted, allow for a minimum 10 day cure and use either TEC Ensealant SB or Aqua-Mix Enrich N Seal. Try the sealer in a test area first to determine the effectiveness of the sealer.

General

Does grout mixed with Grout Boost ever need to be sealed?

No. Since Grout Boost is mixed with the grout, the stain resistance is throughout the grout and can not erode like a sealer.

What is meant by the claim that Grout Boost "Repels Dirt and Stains"?

Liquids and dirt do not penetrate deep into the surface of the grout.

Is Grout Boost effective against all staining liquids?

Using a modified version of the test method described in CTIOA Field Report T-72, we have tested a wide variety of foods and household items and Grout Boost has been effective. Our test method includes leaving stain materials on the surface for 30 minutes, then scrubbing with a nylon scrubbing pad and water.

In general, the longer you leave the stain material on the surface, the more you may need to scrub to get the stain off.

How do I clean grout that appears to be stained?

Depending on the nature of the contaminant the following cleaning products should be tried with a nylon scrubbing pad:

- Neutral pH cleaner
- Alkaline cleaner (for oil based spills)
- Scouring cleansers (for stubborn surface stains and surface dirt)

Always follow up with a clean water rinse.

Liquids don't bead on the surface of my grout that was mixed with Grout Boost. Does this mean Grout Boost is not providing stain resistance?

Liquids do typically bead on the surface of grout that was mixed with Grout Boost. Under certain circumstances (outlined below) liquid materials may not always bead on the surface. Note that even if liquids do not bead up, stains can still be easily cleaned from the grout surface.

Liquids have a property called "surface tension." This is the molecular attractive force within the liquid that results in beading. Surface tension can be compromised and beading may not occur when:

- the grout has an irregular or textured surface (even on the microscopic level)
- there is a layer of another substance on the surface of the grout (the presence of a fine film of soap, or a thin layer of dust or dirt can prevent a liquid from beading up)
- there is more than a drop or two of liquid (with a greater volume of liquid, eventually the weight of the liquid overcomes the strength of the surface tension and the bead spreads out)

Liquid left on the surface for a longer time period can eventually flow in between the grout particles. When Grout Boost is mixed with grout, every particle of the grout becomes "wrapped" with a protective layer of Grout Boost throughout the thickness of the grout. So even if liquids get beyond the grout surface stains can still be lifted from between the particles and removed.



Why does my grout darken when exposed to water?

Since grout has an irregular or textured surface (even on the microscopic level) and substances may accumulate on the surface of the grout (a fine film of soap, or a thin layer of dust or dirt) water can wet-out the surface, creating a darker appearance.

Water left on the surface for a longer time period can eventually migrate in between the grout particles, but when Grout Boost is mixed with grout, every particle of the grout becomes “wrapped” with a protective layer of Grout Boost throughout the thickness of the grout.

How do I prevent my grout from darkening when wet?

Although grout mixed with Grout Boost doesn't require a sealer for stain resistance, an approved sealer can be applied to enhance the surface beading effect and minimize darkening of the grout surface when wet.

Can Grout Boost be used for exterior applications?

Yes, Grout Boost can be used for exterior applications. Follow the grout manufacturer's instructions for installation temperature limitations. Preparation should be made to tent the area if there is a chance of rain within the 10 day cure time.

What if my Grout Boost liquid freezes before I use it?

Grout Boost is freeze/thaw stable up to five cycles. If the product is frozen, allow it to thaw to room temperature.

Is Grout Boost recommended for commercial installations?

Yes. Grout Boost may be used for commercial or residential applications, but it does not provide chemical resistance.

Does Grout Boost provide mold and mildew resistance?

The stain resistance gained from using Grout Boost enhances the ability to clean contaminants (dirt, food, soap scum, etc) off the grout. These contaminants are a food source for mold and mildew.

Grout Boost Advanced Pro does contain a mildewcide for added resistance.

Why does grout mixed with Grout Boost look white or lighter in color?

Grout contains Portland cement. Efflorescence (a whitish powder or surface crust) can occur in any Portland cement product. All grout manufacturers acknowledge that their Portland cement based grouts can effloresce resulting in a white or lighter color. Grout Boost does not prevent this from occurring.

Standard industry practice is to remove the efflorescence from the surface of the grout. Allow the grout to cure per grout manufacturer's instructions. First try a cleaning solution of vinegar and water mixed one to one. Should this be insufficient, it may be necessary to use a stronger acidic cleaner made for removing efflorescence from tile and grout. Be sure to carefully follow the instructions for proper use of the cleaner. Some cleaners may not be suitable for acid sensitive stone installations.

Can I use a grout colorant or grout stain?

Yes. Follow the grout colorant manufacturer's instructions. Aqua Mix or This Old Grout grout colorants are recommended.

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