



How to Replace Cracked Tile

Tile can crack due to shifting foundation or a large force, leading to potential issues if left alone. Rather than replacing the entire floor, we outline the steps to remove and replace a single tile.

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INTRODUCTION

Cracked tile can be unsightly and can lead to larger foundation issues in the long run, but replacing a broken tile can be a simple and straightforward fix. After finding matching tile and grout, the replacement will be all but unnoticeable.

TOOLS:

- **Tile** (1)

Of same size and similar style as existing tile

- **Tile Adhesive** (1)

- **Grout** (1)

Of same or similar color as existing grout

- **Tile Trowel** (1)

- **Painter's Tool or Stiff Putty Knife** (1)

- **Hammer** (1)

Optional

- **Heavy Duty Gloves** (1)

- **Moist Sponge or Old Rag** (1)
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Step 1 — Cracked Tile



- Use a painter's tool or putty knife to remove the grout from around the cracked tile.
 - Using an edge or corner of your painter's tool or putty knife, scrape the grout along the perimeter of the broken tile.
-  Be careful not to crack or scratch surrounding tiles.

Step 2



- Use the painter's tool or putty knife to pry up the broken tile.
 - If the tile does not lift, place an old rag over the tile and use the hammer to break the tile into smaller pieces.
-  Avoid using surrounding tile as leverage and be precise and careful while using the hammer.

Step 3



- Remove the broken pieces of tile, using gloved hands for large pieces or a broom for smaller shards.
- Using the painter's tool or putty knife, scrape the grout from the edges of tile and any adhesive from under the tile.

 Be careful of sharp shards of tile.

Step 4



- Apply new adhesive using the trowel, making sure the adhesive is spread evenly.
- Drag the toothed end of the trowel across the adhesive to create even rows.

 Quickly remove any adhesive from the surrounding tiles using a wet sponge or old rag, working quickly as the adhesive will begin to dry.

Step 5



- Place the new tile down in the center of the empty space.
 - If available, use tile spacers to ensure proper placement.
 - Allow the adhesive to dry based on the instructions provided on the product.
- i** During this time, prevent foot traffic on the new tile.

Step 6



- After the adhesive has dried, add water to a small amount of grout until it's the consistency of toothpaste.
- Fill in the area around the new tile, making sure the new grout matches the height of the surrounding grout.
- Use a moist sponge to wipe diagonally across the tile, cleaning off excess grout after each wipe.

Step 7



- If any bubbles or gaps form in the grout while removing excess, add more grout and repeat the cleaning process.
 - Wait and allow grout to dry for several hours.
-  Keep foot traffic away from the new tile until the grout has had time to dry.

Allow the grout to dry and then resume normal use.