

CTU Online Anytime Module 3.1 – Choosing the Right Grout

Key Takeaways

- Grout decision makers are varied and have very different objectives
 - Architects and designers typically select based on color
 - Contractors select on brand preference and crew's comfort with the grout
 - Residential homeowners often select based on color or texture
 - Large facility owners may get involved due to previous bad experience
 - Developers may get involved with regards to color and maintenance based on service demands
- All parties should choose grout based on the unique service demands of the project
 - The TCNA handbook outlines grout service conditions
 - Use this to match grout with application conditions
- Grout is expected to always perform perfectly and have the following key attributes:
 - Uniform color
 - Hard and consistent when cured
 - Abrasion resistant
 - Optimal flexural strength
 - Optimal tensile strength
 - Cleanable
 - Stain resistant
 - Chemical resistant
- None of the expectations above take into account:
 - Type of tile
 - Variance in absorption ratings
 - Conditions on the jobsite
 - Installer's knowledge
- Grout was developed to fill gaps between stones and tiles to the surface easier to clean
- The current, primary function of grout is to protect the edges and preserve the tile installation
- Due to the long life of tile assemblies, function and performance of grout should be prioritized over cost
 - Per TCNA, tile is the most cost effective flooring system on the market

- Most grouts are available in a wide array of colors; color is not the main consideration
- ANSI has a number of standards to reference when selecting and installing grout
 - A118.3 – Chemical Resistant, Water Cleanable Epoxy
 - A118.6 – Standard Cement
 - A118.7 – High Performance Cement
 - A118.5 – Chemical Resistant Furan
 - TBD – Single Component Grouts

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