

## Recycled Content Ceramic Tile

Ceramic tile is a beautiful, inert material used as a durable finish for floors, countertops, and walls. While somewhat energy intensive to produce, the environmental impacts are offset by ceramic tile's longevity. Recycled-content ceramic tile provides additional environmental benefits; in addition to using up to 100% waste glass, they are often more durable and moisture and stain resistant than their non-recycled counterparts. Ceramic tiles are available in a wide variety of colors, sizes, and textures.



### **PRODUCT COMPARISONS**

#### **Recycled-Content Ceramic Tiles**

Less embodied energy  
Reuses a waste material

#### **Conventional Ceramic Tiles**

More embodied energy  
Uses virgin materials

### **LEED CREDITS**

Using this material potentially contributes to obtaining these credits in the US Green Building Council's LEED certification program:

#### **Materials & Resources**

MR Credit 4.1 Recycled Content

MR Credit 4.2 Recycled Content

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. To find out more about it, visit [www.leadbuilding.org](http://www.leadbuilding.org).



## ***ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES***

### **Energy Performance**

In spaces designed for passive solar gain, ceramic tile is an ideal finish material for storing thermal energy.

### **Resource Impacts**

This material has a relatively low environmental impact, as the glass used in this product contains recycled content. Some products use additional minerals, nearly all of which are abundant and fairly easily extracted (some of the minerals used in glazes are exceptions).

### **Health Considerations**

Recycled content ceramic tiles do not require high-VOC adhesives that are typically used for installing conventional plastic laminate countertops, such as Formica, or flooring materials like vinyl. Specify glazed or factory finished tiles instead of using on-site sealing products, which generally contain high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Select the largest tiles available to minimize the amount of grout lines, which are more subject to mold and staining. Furthermore, specify tiles that have the narrowest grout joints, particularly in areas subject to lots of water. Some imported tiles use lead-based glazes, so test imported tiles for lead content if you choose to use them. Order your own lead test kit at [www.professionalequipment.com](http://www.professionalequipment.com).

## ***FUNCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS***

### **Cost**

Recycled content ceramic tiles are comparable in price to mid-priced conventional tiles.

### **Installation**

Check with the manufacturer to find out which applications are appropriate. Some tiles are not designed for heavy foot traffic. Recycled-content ceramic tiles with recycled glass are installed just like conventional tiles with standard tools. Do not install tile over materials containing formaldehyde, such as most particleboard, or over green board (a more water-resistant gypsum board), as moisture and mold problems can eventually become a problem. Use a low-VOC, water-based grout sealant to increase resistance to moisture and staining.

### **Maintenance**

Ceramic tiles provide a very hard, scratch-resistant surface, and minimal maintenance is required. Grout joints should be cleaned and sealed periodically to resist staining. Tiles with integral color, as opposed to surface glazing, disguise chips that might occur during use.

## ***RESOURCES***

### **Manufacturers**

**Aurora Glass**  
(Order direct from manufacturer)  
Eugene, OR  
(888) 291-9311  
[www.auroraglass.org](http://www.auroraglass.org)

**Oceanside Glasstile Co.**  
3235 Tyler Street  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
(760) 434-0051  
[www.glasstile.com](http://www.glasstile.com)

**Bedrock Industries**

(Order direct from manufacturer)  
Seattle, WA  
(877) 283-7625  
[www.bedrockindustries.com](http://www.bedrockindustries.com)

**Crossville, Inc.**

(Eco-Cycle, Eco-Cycle Stone)  
Crossville, TN  
(931) 484-2110  
[www.crossvilleinc.com](http://www.crossvilleinc.com)

**Fireclay Tile**

(Debris Series)  
495 W. Julian Street  
San Jose, CA 95110  
(408) 275-1182  
[www.fireclaytile.com](http://www.fireclaytile.com)

**Peak Creations**

Kamuela, HI  
(808) 885-7812

**Summitville Tiles**

Summitville, OH  
(330) 223-1511  
[www.summitville.com](http://www.summitville.com)

**Terra Green Ceramics**

Richmond, IN  
(765) 935-4760  
[www.terragreenceramics.com](http://www.terragreenceramics.com)

**Suppliers****Artistic Tile**

(Fireclay)  
830 Bransten Rd  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
(650) 631-8453  
[www.artistictileandstone.com](http://www.artistictileandstone.com)

**Blodgett's Floorcovering**

(Crossville)  
3291 Mt. Diablo Court  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 284-4807

**Callahan Tile & Stone**

(Crossville, Oceanside)  
1991 Burroughs Ave  
San Leandro, CA 94577  
(510) 614-1790

**Ceramic Tile Design**

(Oceanside, Summitville)  
189 13th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 575-3784

**Ceramic Tile Design**

(Oceanside)  
846 W. Francisco Blvd.  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**Green Fusion Design Center**

(Fireclay)  
14 Greenfield Ave.  
San Anselmo, CA 94960  
(415) 454-0174  
[www.greenfusiondesigncenter.com](http://www.greenfusiondesigncenter.com)

**Import Tile**

(Fireclay)  
611 Hearst Ave  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
(510) 843-5744  
[www.importtile.com](http://www.importtile.com)

**Premier Marble and Tile**

(Terra Green)  
3203 Cleveland Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 526-0185

**Prosource**

(Crossville)  
1340 Galaxy Way Suite L  
Concord, CA 94520  
(925) 609-9448  
[www.pswholesale.com](http://www.pswholesale.com)  
*Note: Contractor membership required*

**Prosource**



(415) 485-5180

**CTW Designs**

(Summitville, Terra Green)  
10 Hamilton Drive  
Novato, CA 94949  
(415) 883-8861

**Eco Design Resources**

(Fireclay)  
633 Quarry Rd. Suite A  
San Carlos, CA 94070  
(650) 591-1123  
[www.ecodesignresources.com](http://www.ecodesignresources.com)

**European Tile & Marble**

(Fireclay)  
3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 962-0290

**EXPO Design Center**

(Oceanside)  
1461 Concord Ave  
Concord, CA 94520  
(925) 288-4400  
[www.expo.com](http://www.expo.com)

**EXPO Design Center**

(Oceanside)  
7050 Amador Plaza Rd.  
Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 479-3100  
[www.expo.com](http://www.expo.com)

**EXPO Design Center**

(Oceanside)  
1771 E Bayshore Rd  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 289-6300  
[www.expo.com](http://www.expo.com)

**EXPO Design Center**

(Oceanside)  
1555 40th Street  
Emeryville, CA 94608  
(510) 450-3300  
[www.expo.com](http://www.expo.com)

**EXPO Design Center**

(Oceanside)

(Crossville)

3051 Teagarden  
San Leandro, CA 94577  
(510) 614-9435  
[www.pswholesale.com](http://www.pswholesale.com)

*Note: Contractor membership required*

**Prosource**

(Crossville)  
320 Swift Avenue  
S. San Francisco, CA 94080  
(650) 871-9600  
[www.pswholesale.com](http://www.pswholesale.com)  
*Note: Contractor membership required*

**Prosource**

(Crossville)  
1701 Junction Court  
San Jose, CA 95112  
(408) 987-0500  
[www.pswholesale.com](http://www.pswholesale.com)  
*Note: Contractor membership required*

**Prosource**

(Crossville)  
3410 Industrial Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 573-9117  
[www.pswholesale.com](http://www.pswholesale.com)  
*Note: Contractor membership required*

**Tile & Stone Concepts**

(Fireclay, Oceanside)  
1505 Francisco Blvd. East  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
(415) 457-9422

**Tile & Stone Concepts**

(Fireclay, Oceanside)  
2073 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
(925) 944-7800

**Tile Source**

(Terra Green)  
949 Industrial Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA  
(650) 424-8672

**Tile Town**

(Crossville)



5095 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118  
(408) 979-3500  
[www.expo.com](http://www.expo.com)

**Fine By Design**  
(Fireclay)  
412 Presidio  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 563-6819  
[www.finebydesign.com](http://www.finebydesign.com)

**Golden State Tile**  
(Fireclay)  
3715 Santa Rosa Ave. #A1  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407  
(707) 588-0858

2235 N. Main St.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
(925) 939-4884

**Walker Zanger**  
(Oceanside)  
1455 Crocker Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94544  
(510) 670-0800

**Western Tile Design Center**  
(Crossville, Summitville)  
290 Diamond Way  
Concord, CA 94520  
(925) 671-0145

**Western Tile Design Center**  
(Crossville, Summitville)  
6890 Village Parkway  
Dublin, CA 94568  
(925) 829-5544

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