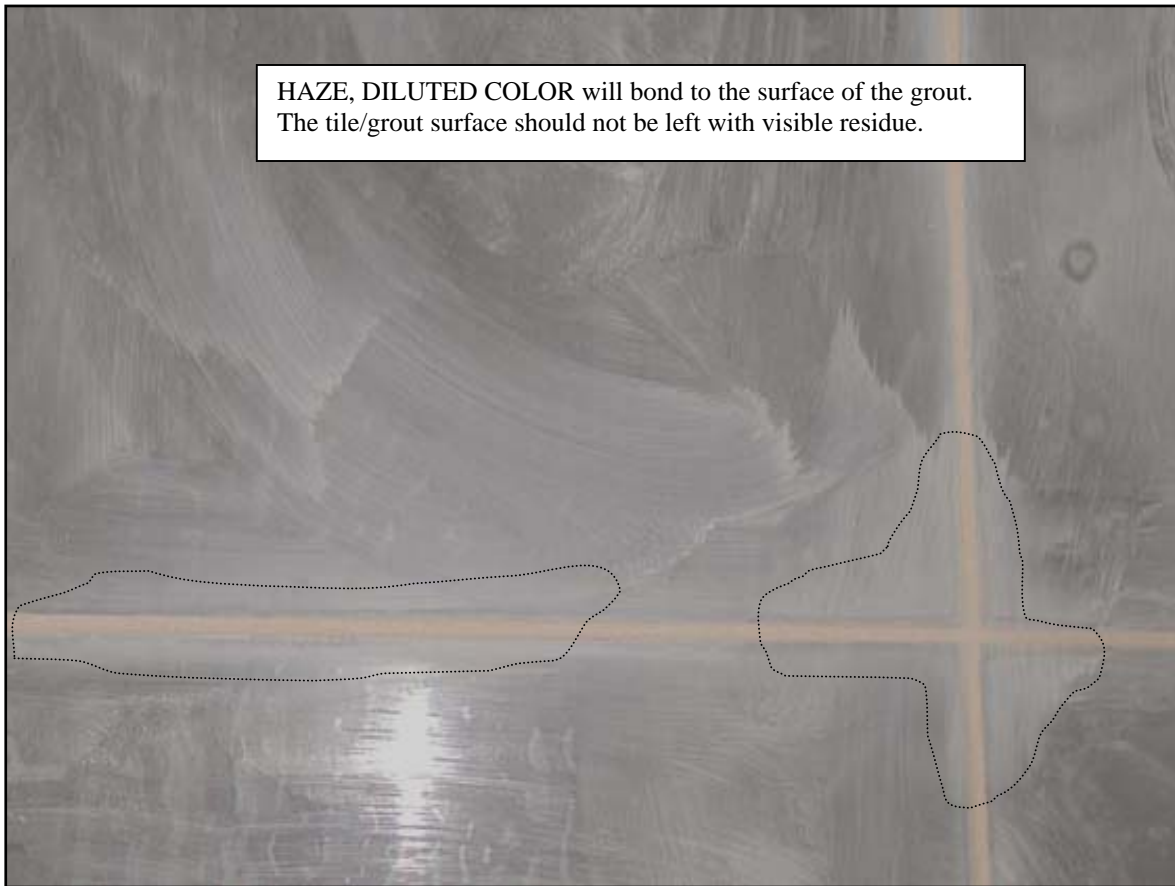


# Faded, Washed –Out or Splotchy Colored Grout Joints

What causes them? Who is responsible? What can be done to fix the problem?



Normal to all cement grout installation procedures, a **damp sponge** is used by the installer to smooth, level and texture the surface of the joint. If a “wet” sponge is used, it only creates more residue and wash-out (especially the dreaded splotchy color effect).

***Damp* or *Wet*?** What does that mean or look-like to person installing grout? It means that the sponge is placed into a bucket of water, squeezed and purged of grout residue, then all remaining water is wrung-out. The sponge can be dropped, squeezed, shaken and or folded-over and not a single drop of water will release from the sponge. THIS MEANS DAMP SPONGE.

The tile surface and grout are wiped with the damp sponge until both surfaces are visibly clean. An extremely faint haze or dust (not seen on the day of the installation) may be present the next day that clean water mopping will remove.





Common to jobs/installations experiencing these problems are due to failure to wipe-down the surface properly or build-up of grout residuals in the installer's bucket water. Once the water becomes color tainted, it is no longer removing the grout haze. It just smears it over the installation and sticks to the top of the grout to cause later problems. This is not a manufacturing defect or "bad grout" which is often stated when the color is uneven.



Other corrective measures after the facts would include proper soaking of the grout joint with clean water just prior to applying an acid washing (acid washing with a tile and grout recommended version). Refer to manufacturer's product directions or the possible use of grout stain for correction.