

# Tile Types

The differences in tile are not just about style. The composition of the tile affects the tile's functionality and performance in different environments and applications.

## Questions to consider

✓ **Indoor or outdoor?**

For installation outdoors where there could be moisture or frost, select a less-porous tile. Porcelain, quarry, and terracotta tiles are good for outdoor use.

✓ **Wall or floor?**

As a rule, any tile that is rated for installation on a floor can also go on the wall. But tile that's specified only for walls is not durable enough for the floor.

✓ **Textured or smooth?**

Floor tile that is too smooth can cause slips and falls, especially in a wet environment like a bathroom.

### Porcelain



- Very hard
- Durable
- Water resistant
- Frost resistant
- Can go anywhere

### Natural Stone



- Natural material shows variation in tone and texture
- Characteristics vary by type of stone

### Ceramic



- Easy to cut
- Generally less costly
- Good for indoors and dry environments
- Not as durable as porcelain

#### Marble

- Soft to medium
- Absorbent
- Variety of colors

#### Travertine

- Soft
- Absorbent
- Variety of earth tones

#### Granite

- Hard
- Absorbent
- Acid resistant
- Variety of colors

#### Slate

- Soft to hard
- Absorbent
- Variety of colors
- High maintenance

### Glass

- Decorative & stylish
- Does not absorb water
- Cannot go on floors

### Quarry and Terracotta

- Hard and durable
- Great for outdoor patios
- Water and frost resistant