

Understanding Tile

Tile comes in a variety of styles and types which offer different features and benefits, so figuring out which tile to purchase is difficult, but if you use the standard icons and language on the packaging, you can easily identify whether the product is right for your project.

Grade



Represents the quality of the tile when visually inspected

- Grade 1 = No imperfections at 3'
- Grade 2 = No imperfections at 10'
- Grade 3 = Major imperfections

Home Depot only sells Grade 1 tiles

C.O.F



Stands for the coefficient of friction and represents the slip resistance of the tile

Scale ranges from 0 to 1

Higher score means better slip resistance

Package may list slip resistance for both wet and dry tiles

Frost Resistance



Indicates the tile is frost resistant

No tile is freeze proof

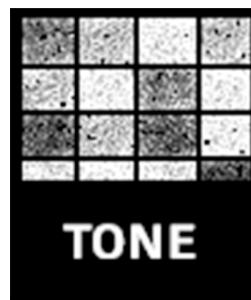
Tile must be vitreous or impervious to be frost resistant

High Definition

Also known as reveal imaging or 3D printed

Creates the look of other flooring products, like stone or hardwood, with the features of porcelain tile

Tone

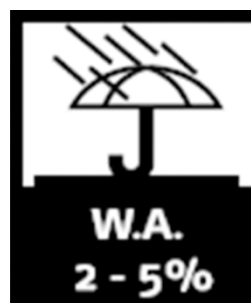


Variation in look from one tile to another within same tile package

Low tone means tiles are nearly identical

High or heavy tone means tiles vary greatly in color and/or pattern

Water Absorption



Stands for water absorption and lists the amount of water the tile will absorb

Value equals the percentage of the tiles weight in water it will absorb

- Non-vitreous tile absorbs more than 7%
- Semi-vitreous tile absorbs 3% to 7%
- Vitreous tile absorbs 0.5% to 3%
- Impervious absorbs less than 0.5%

PEI



Stands for Porcelain Enamel Institute and is a rating of the durability of the tile

Higher number means better flooring

- Use PEI 1 & 2 on walls
- Use PEI 3 in residential floors and walls
- Use PEI 4 & 5 in commercial applications