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Q. The grout on my ceramic tile floor is discolored. I tried cleaning it, but the colors are now different. Is there a way to color the grout?

A. Grout color sealing is a perfect solution for you. Most tile and grout cleaning companies offer this service now. One major caveat: you want to be careful to use a company that uses a quality color seal product. Some companies are out there selling this service but are using a product that is tantamount to acrylic house paint. The problem with this is that even though it might look great immediately, in a short time it starts peeling and looking worse than before the service was done. Plus, paint-type color sealers won't have the other advantages a quality color sealing product has, such as:

- Constant acting mildewcides (think about the bacteria that grows when foods and drinks, not to mention other accidents, illnesses, etc. penetrate into unsealed grout...)
- Long lasting -- 5 + years generally
- You can literally pour things like soy sauce directly on your grout and wipe it up.
- You can change the color of your grout completely... even from dark to light.

Before hiring a grout cleaning company, be sure to do your homework and ask questions.

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