

The 5-Minute Tile Triage Checklist



The 5-Minute Bathroom Tile Triage Checklist. Run these five checks before you accept a tear-out quote. Most bathrooms only need a clean, a reseal, or a regrout. Walk your bathroom and check what you find.

THE FIVE ON-SITE CHECKS

- Press the grout. Does it feel soft, chalky, or spongy?**
Solid grout is a good sign. Soft grout means water has been sitting in it.

- Is grout cracked, pitted, or missing, not just dirty?**
Dirty and intact points to clean and reseal. Missing points to regrout.

- Tap a few tiles. Does any tile sound hollow or feel loose?**
A hollow tap can mean the tile has come loose from the wall.

- Any musty smell, soft drywall, or a soft spot in the floor?**
That is water behind the surface. Get it assessed before cleaning.

- Standing water, a cracked pan, or stains that keep returning?**
Water you can see is not cosmetic and will not clean away.

WHAT YOUR ANSWERS MEAN

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| All "no" | Clean and reseal. Sound tile and grout that is just dirty or porous. The cheapest bucket. A demo would be money wasted. |
| Only grout missing | Regrout. Rake out the bad grout, lay new, seal it. The tile stays. |
| Only hollow tile | Repair, then reseal. Reset the loose tile, then clean and seal. |
| Any water sign | Get an assessment first. Soft grout, musty smell, soft floor, cracked pan, or returning stains mean water behind the surface. Cleaning will not hold. |

Not sure which bucket you are in?

Bathroom Bidders does honest repair-vs-replace assessments across the Kansas City metro. We quote the job you actually need.

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