

Question

We remodeled our master bathroom last year and spent a lot of money installing a beautiful new tile shower. Unfortunately, the grout between the tiles is already dingy and really making the shower look horrible. What can be done to return the refresh the grout?

Answer

You can hire a contractor to remove and replace the grout, but that can be a pricy proposition costing as much as \$20 per square foot. However, there are several simple and affordable do-it-yourself alternatives for renewing the grout in your shower. [Custom Building Products](#), the largest manufacturer of tile installation systems in North America and a QUIKRETE Company, recommends homeowners consider the following tips to maximize the long-term beauty and structural integrity of tile grout in kitchens and bathrooms.

Color refresh

Coloring the tile grout by applying a waterborne epoxy stain like [PolyBlend Grout Renew](#) is a very popular way to bring worn and aged showers, countertops, floors or other tile surfaces back to life. You're basically coloring the grout while protecting it against future stains, mold and mildew at fraction of the cost of replacing the grout. It's also available in a variety of colors, so finding the right match isn't tough.

Deep clean

If difficult stains have infiltrated tile grout, which is a porous material, you should gently scrub the impacted areas with an abrasive, professional-quality cleaner like [Aqua Mix Nano Scrub](#). The nano-sized particles penetrate the small surface pores in tile grout to effectively remove residues, waxes, mineral deposits and sealers without harming the tile grout.

Stain prevention

Once you've refreshed the tile grout, be sure to maintain it on a regular basis. Take some easy and obvious measures like cleaning with a non-abrasive product like [TileLab Grout & Tile Cleaner](#) and protecting against stains with an anti-microbial, penetrating sealer like [AquaMix Sealer's Choice Gold](#). Don't make over complicate the maintenance, but be consistent in your efforts to avoid returning to the original problem of unattractive grout tile.