

FAQ: FEATURES / PERFORMANCE

What is STARLIKE® Grout?

STARLIKE® Grout is the Most Innovative 100% Solids Epoxy Grout in the market today. It is the most Environmentally friendly high-performance grout in the market and the Safest for the user and the installer.

It is the only Grout in the market that can be used also as Mortar and even as Wall Covering product (called Décor) producing a super durable color coordinate Epoxy coating to finish your special project room.

It produces a uniform color with the best stain resistance and non-sag performance on vertical installations.

Based on our revolutionary technology, STARLIKE® Grout provides superior Ease of use, Ease of application and Unmatched Ease of Cleaning using only plain water.

It meets performance of ANSI A118.3.

How many colors of STARLIKE® are available?

STARLIKE® Grout is available in a wonderful range of colors, including:

- 15 traditional Classic Collection solid colors
- 15 exciting Glamour Collection colors
with the option to use STARLIKE® GLITTERS which include Galaxy, Spotlight and Gold
- 1 translucent Crystal Glass
- 5 translucent Color Crystal Glass
- 27 colors of Crystal Glass Jewels® Jewelry like colors and depth of brilliance
- 5 electrifying METALLIC Collection including Platinum, Shining Gold, Bronze, Copper and Rusty
- 1 glow-in-the dark Night Vision option.

With all its performance advantages, STARLIKE® Grout provides outstanding performance, workability features along with easy to clean with plain water only.

What are the aesthetic features of STARLIKE® Grout?

STARLIKE® Grout provides a number of important features and benefits for the end user, installer, architect, and designer:

- Great designer color selection including additional color finishes, translucent and color translucent, Jewels, metallics and glow in the dark.
- Color Uniformity
- Color Accuracy
- No die lot difference (if you run out of material quantity, you can purchase more material and the color will precisely match)
- Extremely Durable
- It can be used also as Mortar, particularly helpful for installation of thin mosaic and thin tile (not glass grouts)

- It can be used also as Wall Covering coating / layer (Décor) producing a super durable color coordinate Epoxy coating to finish your special project room. (not glass grouts)
 - It can be used in Indoor and Outdoor installations, UV resistance rated.
 - It can be used in swimming pools, steam rooms, hammams, and any commercial and industrial application
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What is the Color Accuracy features of STARLIKE® Grout?

STARLIKE® Grout is based on non-pigmented technology (except Jewels and Metallics) provides outstanding accuracy to each color's standard. The color is achieved using a special process to coat the quartz as the color becomes an integral with the aggregate component. The 100% State of the Art Epoxy resin is transparent. Once hardened, it is virtually impossible to wash out the color of the grout (which is a common problem with cement-based grout) even after many years of use and under extreme industrial applications. STARLIKE® Grout will be most accurate, easy to clean grout surface you have ever experienced.

What is the Color Uniformity features of STARLIKE® Grout?

STARLIKE® Grout unique advanced material technology will produce a grout color uniformity that is unaffected by the many variables (i.e. excess water washing, inconsistent mixing, uneven hardening conditions, etc...) which can produce shade variations, blotchiness, discoloration and shading in competitor similar products and traditional cement-based grouts. STARLIKE® Grout delivers a uniform color every time, by following the simple application instruction procedure.

What is the Stain Resistance of STARLIKE® Grout?

STARLIKE® Grout has a unique stain hindering properties that repel liquids and many staining materials. The special State of the Art material components are among the most durable and resistant material man-made with unsurpassed stain resistance. In addition, the porosity of STARLIKE® Grout is practically zero which makes it impermeable and impervious to staining. STARLIKE® Grout is the most stain resistant grout available and is the easiest to maintain and clean.

What superior Durability features has STARLIKE® Grout?

Properly mixed and installed, STARLIKE® Grout cures to a hard, dense grout every time. STARLIKE® Grout is unaffected by the many variables that affect the cure of similar competitor products and cement-based grouts. Cement grouts might exhibit powdering, dusting, and flaking because of poor curing conditions on the job. It will not happen with STARLIKE® Grout.

Will mold and mildew grow on STARLIKE® Grout surface?

STARLIKE® Grout surface is inherently protected as the state-of-the-art material and the practically zero porosity will prevent mold and mildew from forming. Mold or mildew will not penetrate into the grout and can be topically cleaned with neutral soaps and clean water. Maintaining a suitable and consistent cleaning regimen will keep the installation looking new for many, many years.

What is the Non – Staining System features of STARLIKE® Grout?

STARLIKE® Grout utilizes a non-staining filler powder, a ceramically coated colored quartz that will typically not pigment stain a porous surface tile. (except Jewels and Metallics) The advanced Epoxy resin is completely transparent and it will not stain most porous tile material such as quarry tile, unglazed ceramics, polished porcelain, many marbles and stone, and other porous surface tiling material. Many other competitors and cement grouts utilize color pigments which may stain these types of porous tile. STARLIKE® Grout will not stain, even with black or other strong grout colors. In some cases, if the porosity of these materials is high, the coated color quartz will remain entrapped in those large pores causing a permanent visible spot or highlight effect. Conduct a small test area in an inconspicuous place to determine results before grouting the entire room.

In most cases grouting low porosity stones and porous materials, the effect of grouting will spread the transparent resin of the STARLIKE® Grout on the entire surface providing a permanent layer and sealing automatically the surface. IF in doubt call for technical assistance and test in a small area first.

How is STARLIKE® Grout different from competitor products?

STARLIKE® Grout has similar performance characteristics to other competitor's products. It meets the critical areas of ANSI A118.3 performance requirements. The major differences are in performances, application and workability. STARLIKE® Grout is installed with techniques similar to what is used for a cement grout, while competitor's grouts require different procedures for installation and particularly for cleaning.

FAQ: ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

Safe for the Environment

VOC is Zero

Only irritant, not the typical Corrosive chemistries used today by all the others

Safe for the installer

FAQ: INSTALLATION

What are the preliminary checks and preparation of the joints before grouting with STARLIKE® Grout?

Make sure that the adhesive used for bonding the tiles or mosaics is completely dry and hardened. The joints must be completely DRY, CLEAN, FREE OF DUST and EMPTY for the entire thickness of the mosaic tile to ensure the adhesive will not show on the finished grouted surface. Please ASSURE there is NO WATER or residual high HUMIDITY in the joints prior to grouting. The presence of WATER or HIGH HUMIDITY may produce unexpected results including the formation of Efflorescence or Calcium Deposits once hardened, that can be impossible to remove.

What are the workability features that make STARLIKE® Grout easy to use?

STARLIKE® Grout provides a number of features to help make the installer's job easier than with all other epoxy grouts and even easier than cement-based grouts.

- **Easy to Mix** – STARLIKE® Grout Part A components come pre-mixed in a “paste” like uniform compound of colored quartz and transparent epoxy resin. STARLIKE® Grout Part B is the “hardening” agent and it is contained in a separate plastic pouch.
 - **Great for Narrow Joints** – For the contractor who has to grout narrow joints for stone, wall tile or rectified tile, STARLIKE® Grout is easy to install and will cure properly even in narrow joints without the need for any additional additives.
 - **Easy to Apply** – The normal cement application procedure is followed. Use a green rubber grout float (epoxy type) to work the grout diagonally across the joints, packing them full.
 - **Easy Cleaning after Application** – Use plenty of clean potable water for the cleaning after packing STARLIKE® Grout into the joints. Use a Tile Doctor white scrub pad, this is the required specific tool to clean, use circular motion and no pressure until white emulsification takes place and joints are tooled to desired level. Clean water and pad often. Then use tile sponge to finish the process wiping only once over area with clean sides of sponge. Clean sponge before each wipe to insure removal of emulsion. Can use towel cloth after initial-set to get any remaining haze off surface if required. OR after 24 hours use Tile Doctor haze remover to remove any remaining haze if any exists.
 - **Never requires sealing** – Due to the low porosity of STARLIKE® Grout, STARLIKE® Grout never needs to be sealed after application to resist staining.
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Can I use STARLIKE® Grout as a Mortar?

Yes. During the installation of tiles and especially of thin porcelain and mosaics tiles, any mortar material may be “pushed” through between tiles leaving it visible in the grout joints. This mortar must be patiently removed before grouting. Using STARLIKE® Grout as mortar with the same coloration as the grouting color selected, will permit installation of the tile or mosaic and immediately grout the tiles in a one-step application. This unique application process can save a lot of time and simplify the process.

STARLIKE® Grout has been developed with a non-sag performance and it can be used even on vertical applications and to prevent sagging under tile in horizontal applications. Due to the nature of STARLIKE® Crystal, Color Crystal and Jewels, they are not recommended to be used as Mortar.

Can I use STARLIKE® as a Wall Covering coating?

Besides being a Grout and a Mortar, STARLIKE® is also an excellent innovative decorative layer for walls.

With the addition of DÉCOR, a specially formulated thinning agent, you can easily level the substrate with a finish that can be identical to the one used to grout the joints of tile or mosaic. This exclusive characteristic allows unique decorative solutions based on the continuity between wall tile and floor and the surrounding walls. STARLIKE® with Décor is recommended for residential and commercial remodeling and as an alternative to removing and replacing old tile substrates. Applying the Decor Primer Fondo on top of the old tile substrate will achieve a smooth surface on which you can trowel on STARLIKE® in the Décor version. With STARLIKE® in the Décor version (STARLIKE® + Décor additive), you can obtain a relief surface, unique textures, spatulated effect and even decorate with stencils to expand in your design capabilities and inspirations. Not for use with STARLIKE® Crystal, Color Crystal and Jewels.

What is the best way to apply STARLIKE®?

See above under workability and also See the Technical Data Sheet for more details.

Is STARLIKE® difficult to clean after installation like other epoxy and urethane grouts?

No. Cleaning up STARLIKE® is easy. The level of effort required is even lower than a cement-based grout. Unlike other epoxy grout, you can start cleaning immediately after grouting with STARLIKE®.

Do I need any cleaning additive to my wash water when installing STARLIKE®?

No. Cleaning additives are not required for your initial or final cleaning. Just use the Tile Doctor White Pad and plain water, plenty of water.

How long does it take for STARLIKE® to fully cure?

STARLIKE® develops its full hardness in typical installation environments over five days.

How long does Starlike® need to cure before it can be walk on or exposed to water?

The workability and hardening time of the product is greatly influenced by the environmental temperature. The grouted material will be well hardened after 24 hours from application and it can be used even if the complete curing chemical reaction will take 5 total days, before final completion under standard room temperature conditions. During this time, a floor can be walked upon or a shower can be used without problem, but the performances of stain, UV and chemical resistance, strength, etc. are not fully accomplished. Please assure during this time that the used of the grouted surface is as light as possible and pay attention not to spill staining substances such as Wine, Coffee, Mustard, Chemicals, etc. on the surface or Hair Coloring or colored soaps in a shower. Swimming pool should be filled with water after 5 days of application under standard temperature condition.

At what temperature can STARLIKE® be installed?

STARLIKE® is designed to be installed at temperatures between 55°F and 85°F.

Can STARLIKE® be installed outdoors during inclement weather?

If inclement weather is expected, protect the area where STARLIKE® is being or has been installed. To guard against rain or moisture, tent the area at least 48 inches above the floor, not in contact with the fresh grout allowing plenty of air circulation.

Can STARLIKE® be covered on a job site once applied?

STARLIKE® can be covered on a jobsite, but it must be done not in contact with the fresh grout, but at a distance of at least 48" by "tenting".

How will temperature and humidity impact curing time for STARLIKE®?

Warmer and drier weather will decrease the amount of time needed to cure whereas cooler and more humid environments will extend the cure time.

Can I install STARLIKE® in a shower over a fresh mud bed?

No. You must allow the mud bed or any substrates to fully cure and have a dry appearance before grouting.

Do I need to SEAL STARLIKE® Grout?

Due to the low porosity and high-performance constituting material, STARLIKE® Grout never needs to be sealed to help resistance to staining throughout the years.

Can I use STARLIKE® Grout for narrow joints?

As grout joints are nowadays specified to be narrow for stone and for rectified tiles, STARLIKE® Grout will cure properly and perform extremely well even in tight, narrow joints. STARLIKE® Grout can be used into grout joints from 5/128" to 5/8" (1.0 to 15mm). Due to the nature of Crystal and Color Crystal the recommended max grout joints is 1/8".

Can I use STARLIKE® Grout for re-grouting?

STARLIKE® Grout is suitable for re-grouting applications where existing grout joints are powdering, dusting out, permanently stained or need to be replaced.

How much STARLIKE® Grout do I need for my project?

This will vary depending on the tile size, thickness of the tile and joint width. Please visit our website at www.thetiledoctor.com to use the Coverage Calculator.

Please note that grout coverages are approximate and can vary based on jobsite conditions, installation techniques, actual grout joint width and depth, and type of tile or stone being grouted.

Can I grout my swimming pool with STARLIKE® Grout?

Yes! In fact, STARLIKE® Grout is the ideal choice for use in submerged installation of tile or stone. STARLIKE® Grout has a very low porosity and is unaffected by inadequate pool water maintenance, swimming pool chemicals and improper mineral levels. STARLIKE® Grout also feature non-pigmented technology so the color will always stay true for many years.

How do I remove cured epoxy grout film from the face of tiles?

Use our Haze Remover, let it soak onto the surface for 15-60 minutes then use the white pad to scrub the surface with some pressure to remove the haze off of the tile. You may conduct a test area in an inconspicuous area to verify suitability of this method for your tile or stone and to determine results. If the haze persists, repeat the above technique prolonging the soak time for additional minutes.

Are there any precautions that I should be aware of when using STARLIKE® Grout?

Yes, there are some concerns which should be noted prior to beginning your grout job using STARLIKE® Grout.

- STARLIKE® Grout should be protected from freezing or from hot temperatures. Bring the pail ahead of time to a temperature around 70°F (21°C) several hours before using it or mixing. STARLIKE® Grout and surface temperature must be 55°F and 85°F during and for 24 hours after installation.
- Complete hardening and maximum stain resistance is achieved in five days at 70°F (21°C). Protect from exposure to acids, household chemicals, staining (i.e. mustard, lemon juice, vinegar, etc.) and strong cleaners during this period. Protect grout from dirt, construction debris and contamination for five days at 70°F (21°C).
- Some soft polished marble, delicate glazed tile or glass tile might be scratched by STARLIKE® Grout during installation. Conduct a small test in an inconspicuous place to determine results before grouting entire room.
- STARLIKE® Grout may affect the color of white or porous stone or polished stones (i.e. Carrara marble, Green Marble, or other soft and porous type stone). Conduct a small test area in an inconspicuous place to determine results before grouting entire room.
- Conduct a small test area in an inconspicuous place to determine compatibility with metal, steel tile or any other material.
- Mix Part A and Part B using an electric drill with the propeller at low speed until achieving a smooth mixture without lumps. It is simple to understand when the 2 components are properly mixed as you will notice a homogeneous, uniform paste without color variation. It is not advisable to mix by hand. Do NOT OVERMIX as the paste will become hot and it will result in a shorter working time to apply the material before hardening.
- Do NOT COVER the grouted surface with any material, plastic, tarp, cloth or others for 24 – 48 hours under normal temperature conditions. If covering is required, because of rain or to protect the surface, do NOT apply the covering material (plastic, tarp, cloth, etc.) in direct contact with the grouted surface. Potential condensation may discolor the material and form efflorescence, calcium formation that will be impossible to remove after hardening. In this case, the covering material should be placed at least at 48" distance from the grouted surface leaving good air circulation and assuring the area grouted is kept well ventilated.
- Small spots, haze or residues of Starlike Grout can be removed after 24 hours or at any rate after grout hardening (the time of hardening depends greatly on the environmental temperature), using the specific HAZE REMOVER cleaner. Please read the relative technical data sheet for correct use.

Can STARLIKE® Grout be used in commercial jobs or industrial applications?

The use of STARLIKE® Grout is recommended in commercial jobs or industrial applications. We strongly recommend the use of STARLIKE® Grout also for other area that may be subjected to high chemical exposure, high heat conditions, dust concentrations, and/or aggressive cleaning regimens.

What is the STARLIKE® Glitter / Finishes component?

STARLIKE® Glitter is an optional component for use with STARLIKE® Grout. STARLIKE® Grout is available in a range of 30 designer colors, but by blending in a STARLIKE® Glitter component, the color palette expands to 120 options. STARLIKE® Glitter is available in Galaxy, Spotlight and Gold. The STARLIKE® Glitter is a metallic flake powder like to impart a sparkle effect, light-reflective grout joint that can enhance many tile installations. The use of Glitters may have an effect in variation of colors. Please request a sample of you STARLIKE® Grout color selected with the specific Glitters at www.thetiledoctor.com

What are important tips about grouting with STARLIKE® Grout?

- Remove excess grout off the face of tile with a grout float immediately after packing the grout in the joints. Don't leave large globs of STARLIKE® Grout on the face of the tile. Remove them promptly prior to cleaning.
 - Use the white pad to help in the first cleaning of the grouted surface.
 - Use plain water with no other additives, plenty of water.
 - Working time of STARLIKE® Grout is over 60 minutes at 70°F (21°C); don't mix more STARLIKE® Grout than you can grout in that time frame.
 - The mixing ratio of Part A and Part B is 100 : 8 and found in the technical data sheet available at www.thetiledoctor.com. Please use accuracy and precision when partially measuring smaller amount of the individual unit. We recommend the purchase of smaller units to assure no waste and no partial mixing.
 - Change white pad, sponge and cleaning water as often as you can and not more then every 80 ft².
 - STARLIKE® Grout will be tack free in approximately 3-4 hours at 70°F (21°C). It is ready for light foot traffic in 24 hours.
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Is STARLIKE® eligible for a Warranty?

Yes. When installed with a complete system of qualifying products from Litokol, STARLIKE® is eligible for up to 10 years Limited Lifetime System Warranty on the entire installation.