



TILE & STONE INSTALLATION SYSTEMS

Repairing *Kerapoxy*[®] *IEG CQ*

MAPEI's industrial-grade epoxy grout is *Kerapoxy IEG CQ*, a water-cleanable 100%-solids grout that offers superior chemical and stain resistance. *Kerapoxy IEG CQ* is ideal for installations requiring high resistance to acid and chemicals. (Consult the Technical Data Sheet for details.)

Even industrial-grade epoxy grouts can eventually succumb to deterioration caused by industrial cleaning, sanitizing, heavy use, traffic and other detrimental issues. This reference guide will address how to repair an epoxy grout installation with *Kerapoxy IEG CQ*.

Planning the job and logistics

- Talk with the owner's representative about the disruption of operation and working hours in conjunction with the repair.
- Find out if any of the following will need to be done at the same time.
 - ▶ Re-installation and or replacement of loose tiles
 - ▶ Removal of any contaminants
 - ▶ Drying surface and joints in preparation for grouting, using wet/dry shop vacuums and air movers
- Determine the time needed for curing and floor protection during and following the repair.

Conducting the repair

Removing industrial-grade epoxy grout

- MAPEI and the industry recommend the removal of all damaged or contaminated grout to a minimum depth of 2/3 of the tile thickness. However, MAPEI does not recommend using chemicals to remove epoxy grout.

Removal by heat:

1. Note that while no liquid chemicals or dust are present with this grout removal process, adequate venting should be provided for the fumes of the

heated epoxy. In addition, always be mindful to protect adjacent surfaces from potential damage that can be caused by the heat gun.

2. Using an electric, industrial heat gun (at about 500°F or 260°C), slowly apply heat to the repair area, thereby softening the existing grout. Remove the grout from the joint using a narrow pointed tool such as a flat-bladed screwdriver or similar tool.
3. Although this method requires some time, it yields very effective results while producing minimal dust and debris.

Removal by mechanical means:

1. Use a dustless vacuum attached to an electric saw (either a right-angle grinder or small circular saw) with a diamond cutting blade. (Always monitor the cleanliness of the vacuum filter to achieve the maximum benefit and suction.) Carefully follow the grout lines and remove all existing grout.
2. During the removal process, be careful not to damage the adjacent tile. Missed grout can be removed with an angle grinder with a vacuum attached, or with a sharp utility knife.
3. Always follow local, state/provincial and national regulations regarding dust control and air quality on the jobsite.

Re-installing industrial-grade epoxy grout

- Verify that all joints needing grout are dry and dust-free before the installation. Install *Kerapoxy IEG CQ* per the instruction on its Technical Data Sheet. Maintaining temperatures at about 73°F (23°C), allow the grout to cure for 5 to 12 hours before opening the installation to general traffic. Protect the installation for a full 4 days before routine cleaning is resumed.

Jobsite conditions will vary and may present circumstances not covered in this guide. For more information, consult MAPEI's Technical Services Department or review the most up-to-date product data at www.mapei.com.

