

PORCELAIN VS CERAMIC

Porcelain is ceramic, fired harder. Both start as clay, and the difference is density. A tile counts as porcelain when it absorbs half a percent of water or less. That single number drives everything else: strength, frost safety and where each tile can go.

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ONE FAMILY, TWO DENSITIES

Every tile in this story is fired clay. Ceramic fires at a lower temperature from a coarser clay body. Porcelain fires hotter, from finer clay pressed harder, until the body nearly turns to glass. The standard EN 14411 draws the line at water absorption: at half a percent or below, the tile is porcelain. Above it, the tile is ceramic.

THE SPEC DUEL

	PORCELAIN	CERAMIC
WATER ABSORPTION	0.5% or less	Above 0.5%
FROST AND POOLS	Safe outdoors	Indoors only
STRENGTH	Higher. Fired denser.	Lower. Easier to cut.
WHERE IT GOES	Floors and walls, inside and out	Walls and light-duty floors indoors
COST TO MAKE	Higher	Lower

WHICH ONE ARE YOU HOLDING

- 1

Read the sheet. Group Bla under EN 14411 is porcelain.
- 2

Look at the edge. A porcelain body is fine and even, often close to the face color. A ceramic body is coarser, usually red or white.
- 3

Feel the weight. Porcelain is noticeably heavier for the same size.
- 4

Check the absorption row. Half a percent or less settles the question.

WHEN EACH ONE WINS

CHOOSE PORCELAIN FOR

Floors

Outdoors and pools

Wet rooms

Pets and heavy traffic

One floor running inside to outside

CHOOSE CERAMIC FOR

Wall tile

Backsplashes

Decorative accents

Budget wall projects

QUESTIONS, ANSWERED

Is porcelain stronger than ceramic?

Yes. The denser body carries higher loads and resists chips better. The measure is breaking strength under ISO 10545-4, printed on every technical sheet.

Can ceramic tile go outdoors?

Ceramic absorbs enough water for frost to crack it and for pool chemistry to work on it, so it stays indoors. Porcelain is the outdoor tile.

Why does porcelain cost more?

It fires hotter and longer from finer raw clay, and more force presses it. The kiln time and the material show up in the price.

Is porcelain harder to install?

It is harder to cut and drill because it is denser, so installers use diamond blades and price the work accordingly. The setting process is the same.

How do I know which one a product page is selling?

Every PORCEMALL product page states the body and its EN 14411 group in the technical data table. Group Bla is porcelain.

CHECK ANY FLOOR AGAINST THIS GUIDE

Every PORCEMALL product page lists its ratings in the quick facts and in the technical data table. Open a product page and check it against this guide.

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