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Blow Up Your Feed!
We’re Floored
...by all the beautiful tile we’re spotting at restaurants. Read our tips for taking the trend home

by SARI LEHRER
photographs by TED CAVANAUGH

Are you getting the urge to renovate? Find buying info for the tiles on this page in Sourcebook, page 112.
Subway 2.0

The Look

Hand-glazed Heath tiles stretch to the ceiling for a dramatic look at Farmshop in Larkspur, CA.

Penny Tile

The LBD of tile: simple, classic, and never goes out of style. The quintessential look for brasseries, bistros, and oyster bars, these itty-bitty rounds are being used on floors in basic patterns or to spell out a restaurant’s name (as at Kindred in Davidson, NC).

PRO TIP
Use judiciously! Though bravado need not be limited to commercial use, at home you’re best off laying this tile on a patio or in a small space like an entryway for a jewel-box effect. Have fun with the pattern, but you’d be wise to think of it like a tattoo: You should still want to look at it a year from now. Aim for timeless and unplaceable, says Dolores Suarez of New York’s Dekar Design.

Subway 2.0

With all due respect to Balthazar's Keith McNally, there's more than one way to lay a subway tile. Bold colors, tweaked dimensions, and fresh layouts are redefining this favorite. At San Francisco's Liholiho Yacht Club, it's done big and bright with canary-yellow 4x4s; Chicago's Swift & Sons lays sage-green tiles vertically; and at Farmshop in Larkspur, CA, there are entire walls of textured tiles in a range of greens.

GO FOR A SPIN
Take a cue from Mâurice in Portland, OR, and The Mill in SF and put a twist on the classic design—literally: A herringbone-like pattern doesn't look like something you've seen a million times.

BUY IT
Fireclay has vivid colors and multiple shapes.

For advice from the experts at Heath Ceramics (hint: The grout matters too), go to bonappetit.com/tile.