

Crazing in Ceramic Tiles

Crazing refers to very fine, hairline lines that appear in the glaze on the surface of a ceramic tile. These lines sit only in the glaze, not through the tile, and are a normal characteristic of many glossy or decorative tiles. It is common in high-gloss and handmade-style tiles.

What Causes Crazing?

Crazing happens when the glaze and the tile body expand and contract at different rates. This can occur naturally over time, especially in areas with:

- Humidity or steam
- Temperature changes
- Slight movement in walls, niches, or shower seats

Is Crazing a Defect?

No it is not.

Across the tile industry, crazing is not considered a defect. It is a known behaviour of glazed ceramic tiles and does **not** affect:

- Strength
- Durability
- Waterproofing

Does Crazing Affect Performance?

No — it is cosmetic only. The tile remains fully functional and suitable for bathrooms and wet areas.

Why It May Appear in Some Areas Only

Crazing can show in isolated spots where:

- There is more movement (e.g., shower seats and junctions)
- Moisture levels are higher
- Temperature changes are more frequent

This is normal and does not indicate installation issues.

Summary

Crazing is a, cosmetic characteristic of many glazed ceramic tiles. It does not affect performance, is not a structural issue, and is not treated as a defect under industry standards.