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"The market conditions and consumer trends are almost ideally placed for the ceramic tile sector. House price inflation, the continued trend for ensuite facilities, the importance of kitchens and bathrooms to home improvements (and house prices) and strong new construction activity will all encourage strong growth in the market."

- Terry Leggett, Senior Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- How will the market develop over the next few years?
- Why is the UK market so different from others in Europe?
- Do wall tiles or floor tiles offer the best prospects?
- Will demand for unglazed tiles continue to grow quicker than that of glazed tiles?
- What are the 2014 fashion trends?

The ceramic tile industry makes a wide range of products for covering floors and walls with applications in private, public and industrial buildings. The tiles can be produced in a variety of shapes and sizes, and can incorporate different patterns.

The ceramic tile market is commonly segmented into:

- glazed tiles
- unglazed tiles

Glazed tiles represent the largest element of sales. The production process is similar to that of unglazed tiles with further processing undertaken. Unglazed tiles are either pressed or extruded from clays in a plastic state, and then fired at high temperatures, which increases the durability of the tile. Many of these tiles are vitrified, since they are often used in heavy wear applications.

Unglazed tiles have both commercial and residential uses and applications including:

- facing of walls
- hearth places and mantlepieces
- floor coverings
- paths

Glazed tiles are further covered with a vitreous glaze which can be applied by:

- single firing
- double firing

Single firing was pioneered in 1974 by Marazzi of Italy. The process now accounts for 65% of global glazed tile production.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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