

Potential Bacteria That May Be Living in Your Tile or Grout:

- **Serratia marcescens:** involved in nosocomial infections, particularly catheter-associated bacteremia, urinary tract infections and wound infections, and is responsible for 1.4% of nosocomial bacteremia cases in the United States.
- **Athlete's foot:** caused by the ringworm fungus ("tinea" in medical also called tinea pedis). The fungus that causes athlete's foot can be found on many locations, including dirty grout and tile on floors in bathrooms, showers, and entry ways. The fungus can also be spread directly from person to person or by contact with these objects.
- **Onychomycosis:** a fungal infection of the finger or toenails which is very difficult to cure.
- **Plantar warts:** are spread by contact with moist walking surfaces, they can be prevented by not walking barefoot in public areas such as showers or bathrooms and avoiding direct contact with warts on other parts of the body or on other people.
- **Mildew:** a type of fungus that be found growing on a multitude of surfaces where moisture and temperature levels are high. Mildew can be identified and distinguished from other types of fungi by its thin, sheet-like appearance that often coats entire surfaces. Mildew can be black or white in color. As mildew grows, it leaves behind a musty, sour-like odor. Most mildews are caused by an overgrowth of it's close cousin, mold.