

Instructions for Ceramic Tiles Cleaning

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to provide you with specific cleaning advices for our tiles. Result of the firing process at 1300 C° is a very dense surface where no dirt can enter. Dirt appears only at the surface of the tile and can be removed easily.

Recommendations for initial cleaning after tiling, listed in the following in point 1, apply to tiles with natural, textured and polished surfaces.

Our technical department will provide you with specific instructions for regular maintenance cleaning of tiles with polished surfaces upon request. Furthermore specific instructions have to be considered for initial cleaning of epoxy resin jointing and tiles with metallic look. We will also provide you with this information upon request.

1. Initial cleaning after tiling

Often cement residues remain at the surface after tiling and jointing with cementitious adhesive and joint sealer despite thorough cleaning with clear water. They are not always immediately visible. Dirt is more likely to adhere to these residues. Furthermore cement particles are released quite often from the first layer of cement joint during first deep cleaning processes. This is a natural process which is diminished steadily. Therefore we recommend applying the following advices for initial cleaning in the first two month after floor installation.

Use a cement remover to clean surface from cementitious residues caused by floor installation and jointing. Most "loose" cement particles are also removed from the first layer of cement joints during that process. As described above, more treatments could be required after first maintenance cleanings

Cement residues removers are acidic aqueous solutions or "acidic detergents" with pH value < 1 (concentrate).

Please wet joints before usage and carefully follow manufacturer's instructions for use of cleansers.

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An additional cleaning with intensive cleansers for deep cleaning of porcelain stoneware could be required, when flexible joint sealers with plastic components are used. Plastic particles may also adhere to porcelain stoneware surface. The cleanser dissolves plastic compounds. Plastic particles can be removed with microfiber wiping cloth afterwards. Intensive cleansers for porcelain stoneware are alkaline (basic) with pH value > 14 (concentrate).

2. Routine Maintenance Cleaning

For routine cleaning and slight soiling clean the floor with warm water added with diluted acetic acid or vinegar cleaner and a microfibre cloth. Diluted acetic acid or vinegar cleaner binds limescale from wipe water.

For removal of grease a porcelain stoneware cleanser, a mild alkaline detergent with pH value > 10 (concentrate) can be used instead of diluted acetic acid.

Do not use detergents with waxes or film-forming substances (e.g. dishwashing liquid). These detergents cause wax layers and lime soap on the surface of the tiles which are hard to remove.

These layers cause grey deposits, residues that can only be removed by intensive deep cleaning.

Note: The surface of porcelain stoneware products is similar to the surface of glass. Therefore similar cleaning methods can be applied.

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3. Intensive Basic Cleaning on demand

For dirt that is hard to shift, high strain or occurrence of dirt layers special cleaning with intensive cleansers for porcelain stoneware could be required. Intensive cleansers for porcelain stoneware are alkaline (basic) with pH value > 14 (concentrate).

This detergent dissolves the dirt and then can be removed with clear water and a microfiber wiping cloth. Please carefully follow manufacturer's instructions for use of cleansers.

4. Calcareous Water

Calcareous water can cause lime scale on tile surfaces. The resulting gray film is more visible on dark tiles. In order to avoid these deposits you should avoid too much water to dry after cleaning or taking a shower.

According to experience window rubbers are proven to be good for shower cleaning and drying. Lime scale deposits can also be avoided by thoroughly cleaning with a dry cloth. Nevertheless it can be necessary to clean the tiles regularly with sanitary detergents. This cleanser is especially appropriate for removal of lime scale deposits.

Advice:

We strictly recommend using a microfibre cloth for wiping. Thanks to its texture, the microfiber cloth can absorb a huge amount of dirt. Dirt particles can be easily rinsed under cold or hot water subsequently.

For cleaning large areas we recommend to use a cleaning machine.

According to our experience detergents and maintenance products of manufacturer Lithofin are especially good.

For more information on Lithofin products please check: www.lithofin.de

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of further questions.

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