

# Cleaning & Maintenance

## **The first cleaning “after installation”.**

The most important cleaning operation is performed immediately after laying the tiles. This involves the complete removal of residues and dirt from the tile placement. An inadequate or late removal of this waste can create a cement layer on the tile capable of absorbing all forms of dirt. This may give the impression that the tile gets dirty when the actual problem resides in the surface film of dirt which was not removed immediately after laying.

Once the grouting of the tile is finished, it is important, while the grout is still wet, to carefully remove any excess material immediately. This can be done using a sponge and plenty of clean water, repeating this as many times as necessary. Do not perform the cleaning with metal tools, scrapers or abrasive pads. For stubborn mortar/cement stains, clean with vinegar and lukewarm water then rub with a clean cloth. For oil base stains use acetone.

If stains remain there, check with our relevant technical department technician. Once the cleaning that was mentioned above is done, another washing should be carried out using basic or alkaline degreasing agents. Because acid washing can leave stickiness on the pavement which could help retain dirt, in areas where water is calcareous, it is convenient to dry the surface to prevent the deposits of carbonates, which will reduce the surfaces' gleam.

## **Regular maintenance**

Many available cleaning products for general use can be used with our products. For daily cleaning, one can use detergents or degreasing products diluted in warm water, following each product's instructions.

It is important that the cleaner does not have oil, animal fat, or soap base. These components may leave an invisible residue that will absorb dirt. It is also important that the tile receives a thorough rinsing with clean water after the cleaning process is complete.

Because of its high resistance to deep abrasion, staining, and water absorption. Porcelain tiles ensure a product that is easy to maintain. Our products do not require the use of sealants or waxes. These superficial coatings can really affect the performance of the tile in a negative manner.

It is important to note that hydrofluoric acid (HF) and derivatives can irreparably damage the tile.

## **General steps for regular cleaning of our ceramic products can be summarized as follows:**

- Remove any solid or liquid waste from the tile by sweeping with a soft bristle broom or vacuuming.
- Clean up liquid spills as soon as possible with lukewarm water.
- Apply the recommended amount of diluted cleaner for the tile (follow the manufacturer's instructions).
- For unpolished tiles, a scrub with a nylon sponge, a soft bristle brush, or a floor machine equipped with a nylon pad can be used. A bristle brush can also be used for heavily soiled surfaces. For polished tiles, clean with a nonabrasive cloth.
- Remove the dirty cleaning solution and water with a vacuum, mop, sponge or cloth. Rinse the porcelain tile with clean water and remove again with a vacuum, mop, sponge or cloth. It is absolutely essential that all detergent residues are removed completely from the tile. Any remaining detergent that dries on the tiles surface can form a coating that can trap dirt and be very difficult to remove. The tile should be rinsed several times to remove all detergent residues.

During use, the cleaning of the tiles should be like window cleaning. Ammonia and even bleach type products can be employed, but both must be diluted with water.

In case of special stains and/or particularly resistant ones, it is advisable to use specific detergents/cleaning products according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not forget that removing any type of stain is easier when it is still fresh.

It is important to always pre-test the cleaning products in a non-conspicuous area before use.