

Technical Information

Cleaning and Maintenance of Ceramic and Porcelain tiles

Cleaning after tiling

It is recommended that the colour of the grout material used closely matches the colour of the tiles. Once the tiles have been laid, the grout layer must be thoroughly removed in a short time before the grout starts to dry. At this stage, the grout layer can be removed mostly with sponge and water. Hardened grout residues can only be removed with special chemical cleaners. Contaminants may adhere to these residues and make the tiles difficult to clean. If this does occur then there are many types of special cement film (grout material) removers at the dealers. These grout removers must be used according to manufacturer instructions. After the cleaning, the tiles must be rinsed off with water.

Periodical maintenance

The cleaning intervals for the tiles changes with respect to the surface properties of the product and the contaminant potential of the installation area. The tiles must be vacuum cleaned regularly and washed down with water containing an appropriate commercial cleaning agent depending on the contaminant. The dirty water must be removed from the floor entirely, for this reason, the floor should be rinsed with copious amounts of clean water, this will prevent striping when the tiles are dry.

The floor may also be cleaned with a dry cloth to remove any remaining dirt. Mopping may not be suitable for tiles with structural surfaces. Large areas of plain or textured surfaced tiles are most readily cleaned with rotary, cylindrical or reversing mechanical scrubbing machines. These should rotate at a slow to medium speed. Such machines are frequently provided with a suction drying facility. If equipped with this function, the machine should first be used with the suction facility switched off to permit the water detergent mix used in the scrubbing process to remain on the floor to penetrate the contaminant layer.

As a precaution, cleaning agents containing Hydrofluoric acid and its compounds must not be used. These compounds may attack the ceramic material directly and may cause damage to the surface and the technical properties of the tile. Inappropriate cleaning, such as with abrasive pads, may affect the slip-resistance properties and the surface of the product. Some cleaning products may leave a film of grease that can attract further contaminants; therefore, using this kind of cleaning products must be avoided.

If you require any further information on the cleaning and maintenance of tiles, or have any other technical queries on ceramic or porcelain tiles then please contact the Contracts team on 0845 356 7568, or e-mail at contracts@cpgroupuk.com.



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