

Maintenance instructions – ceramic wall and floor tiles

Regular and proper cleaning is an essential part of the care of ceramic wall and floor tiles. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning. General advice - do not leave any dirt / stains on the floor for too long, try to clean them as soon as possible.

Cleaning after initial installation = first deep cleaning after finishing the installation of the tiles

It is necessary to carefully remove all cement residue from the wall and floor tiles after their installation. Even a tiny cement residue attracts dirt, spoils the appearance of the ceramic tiles and makes future daily cleaning harder and less efficient. The use of professional cement removers - acid cleaners ($\text{pH} < 6$), is suggested for the first deep cleaning. The recommended dilution must be adhered to in order to avoid eg. bleaching of dark tile joints! In case there are stains on the material from silicone or epoxy, special cleaners for epoxy sealants and silicone residue should be used.

Regular maintenance and cleaning

Maintenance and cleaning of the product should consist of sweeping, vacuuming or wiping with a wet cloth using a suitable neutral soap detergent. Do not use any abrasive methods (sand) to clean the wall and floor tiles. The use of such methods may cause irreversible damage to the material (scratching – especially on decorations made up of several layers of glazes, etc.). In entrances to rooms and places that get especially busy it is essential to install so-called cleaning zones that will help eliminate the presence of abrasives (such as grit, sand on shoes, etc.)

Deep cleaning

Deep cleaning should be performed when heavy contamination that could not be removed by regular cleaning methods occurs. Alkaline cleaning agents ($\text{pH} > 8$) are most often used to remove greasy residue on floors. Use acidic cleaning agents ($\text{pH} < 6$) to remove calcium sediments from hard water. Combination of these types of cleaners will lead to a successful removal of old dirt from the tile surface.

Cleaning of slip-resistant surfaces

Slip-resistant surfaces are characterized by a coarser surface structure necessary to achieve anti-slip properties. It is essential to regularly clean these surfaces based on the type and level of their dirtiness. Any type of dirt, sand, grease, remnants of snow and ice significantly affect the surfaces and decrease their anti-slip qualities. The impregnation of the tiles facilitates regular maintenance and reduces the consumption of cleaning agents.

Application - floor surfaces are usually cleaned manually with a mop / rag or floor scrubber. Other suitable tools include sponges with white or red pads and microfibers. It is recommended to rinse the surfaces with clean water after every cleaning. Protective equipment should be

used when handling chemical cleaners. It is essential to follow guidelines and safety instructions provided by the manufacturer. Pay special attention to eye protection!

Warning – when using chemical cleaners, always follow the instructions on the product label. Not following the concentration guidelines may result in bleaching of the tile joints.