

Regular cleaning is of great significance for all floor coverings, not just for the sake of appearance, but also in terms of the life and maintaining the value of the coverings. Chemical / physical influences (sand, dirt, salt water) also have a negative effect on the visual appearance. The effects of scouring can shorten the life of the coverings. By using suitable cleaning and maintenance products, the value of the floor is maintained and the beauty of the flooring won't deteriorate the level of promised slipping resistance (depending on the stone surface).

A. To note

Clean zones in high traffic entrance areas considerably contribute towards maintaining the value of the stone flooring. This area should be sufficiently protected so that the covering is not scratched by sand particles. Especially during the construction phase, the floor must be properly covered to protect it from mechanical and chemical influences.

B. Cleaning

1. Rough cleaning

- 1.1 This takes place in form of a dry cleaning to remove all rubble, loose dirt, flooring residue, etc. by sweeping and vacuuming.

2. Thorough cleaning

- 2.1 A thorough cleaning must be carried out if there is a particularly heavy soiling. Cement film or dirt can be removed by adding a diluted alkaline cleaning agent to the water. After 15 minutes to allow the solvent to work the loosened dirt has to be taken up and the flooring has to be wet washed with a well-squeezed mop several times using clean water. When using machines, the single-disk machines with red pads or soft brushes should be used.

3. Initial maintenance

- 3.1 Polished or finely sanded surfaces require no treatment in the form of a basic protection or an initial maintenance. Roughly sanded and sandblasted surfaces are open-pored. These surfaces must be protected, by a suitable non-penetrating agent, against the effects of dirt, oil and water.

4. Maintenance cleaning

- 4.1 The maintenance cleaning comprises all cleaning measures that must be done on a regular basis. According to the intensity of the soiling and the intended cleaning result, the following variants are recommended:

4.1.1 Damp wiping

This procedure removes the loose dirt by using a damp cloth. Persistent stains can also be removed manually or mechanically using this procedure. The manual cleaning should be done in two stages. The floor has to be wiped with a damp cloth and then the loosened dirt can be removed with a clean, dry and well-squeezed mop. The mechanical cleaning, using suitable pad disks / brushes, is done in one step. Experience has shown that the manual damp wiping procedure does not bring about a satisfactory result for roughly polished or sandblasted surfaces, because the loosened dirt is not completely removed. For these surfaces we recommend to use a suitable cleaning machine.

4.1.2 Polishing

Using a machine the polished or finely sanded surface strengthens, thus increasing the density of the stone. However, always ensure that the full slipping resistance is maintained.

4.1.3 Spray cleaning

This procedure involves polishing with the addition of a spray cleaner product for removing persistent residue. The areas to be worked on are sprayed with a spray cleaner and then the loose dirt is mechanically removed, e.g. using a high-speed machine and suitable pad disks (red pad). In doing so, the pad disks take up the loosened dirt and the maintenance components of the spray cleaner strengthen the surface of the floor. With reference to the slipping resistance, there remain the same conditions as the polishing method.

These recommendations have been made on account of general practical experience. However, no liability shall be accepted for their completeness, correctness and applicability.

Any products mentioned are examples. When using them, the manufacturer's conditions must be observed, and a consultation with the cleaning agent manufacturer and the stone manufacturer may be necessary. The applicability and tolerability of the cleaning agent are the manufacturer's responsibility.

Should you have any further questions, please contact us for more detailed information.
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