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CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE – PORCELAIN TILES

Initial Cleaning

The first job after tiling is to remove site dirt and any grout residue. Failure to clean off any grout, adhesive or cement left on the floor will make dirt accumulate more quickly and further routine maintenance may be more difficult.

To do this, first remove the thick of the residue, and then use a buffered acid solution with a single-brush floor cleaning machine and a wet vacuum, if possible. The detergent should be left on the floor for the amount of time suggested by the manufacturer and must be diluted according to instructions. Afterwards, rinse thoroughly with clean water. Always follow the instructions provided by the grout and adhesive manufacturers.

For glazed products, check their resistance to acids in their technical file; vice versa only use mild detergents.

Caution: very strong acids may damage joints.

Examples of suitable detergents: Deterdek (Fila), Cement Remover (Faber), Keranet (Mapei), and DeltaPlus (Kerakoll).

Getting rid of stains

Generally speaking, all stains can be removed from Leonardo 1502 tiles with water alone.

In exceptional circumstances, for example should a stain be left for a long time on the floor, especially with polished surfaces, you may need to use an appropriate detergent, as suggested in the table below:

Glazed porcelain stoneware

For ordinary cleaning, simply remove dirt and dust (using a brush or vacuum cleaner) then wash the floor with hot water or with a mild floor detergent diluted in water according to the manufacturer's instructions. Rinse with water to prevent marks caused by detergent residue.

Avoid the use of waxes or detergents containing wax polishes in order to retain the beauty of the surface and its natural ease of cleaning.

Polished porcelain stoneware

All porcelain stoneware products have an extremely low level of water absorption, with porosity close to zero. The polished tiles, due to polishing process, are more inclined to stain. This is why preventive treatment is sometimes used for polished surfaces making maintenance easier, especially in heavily soiled areas. All Leonardo

polished products are pre-treated at the factory, and on-site treatment is not strictly necessary.

For ordinary cleaning, simply remove dirt and dust and then wipe over the surface with a damp cloth or using a mild floor detergent diluted in water according to the manufacturer's instructions. Rinse with water to prevent marks caused by detergent residue.

Matt porcelain stoneware

Porcelain stoneware is a product with a very low level of absorption so the use of protective treatments is not recommended. To keep the surface in optimum condition, simply clean it properly.

For routine maintenance, simply remove dirt and dust (using a brush or vacuum cleaner) then wash the floor with a mild floor detergent diluted in water according to the manufacturer's instructions. Rinse with water to prevent marks caused by detergent residue.

For special maintenance or for large heavy traffic areas (e.g. shopping centres), or to restore the floor's original appearance after a long period of use, we recommend alkaline degreasers (e.g. Ps87 made by Fila) and the use of a floor cleaning machine, if possible, fitted with medium felt polishing wheels. Rinse thoroughly afterwards.

Avoid the use of waxes or detergents containing wax polishes in order to retain the beauty of the surface and its natural ease of cleaning.

Textured or non-slip surfaces (glazed and unglazed)

The same products and cleaning methods are used as described for matt porcelain stoneware, but a little extra care should be taken:

Rub well using scrubbing brushes with suitable bristles, if possible

Follow the relief patterns wherever possible

Rinse well with water