



# Tile Cleaning & Maintenance

## (A) SCOPE

Covers the daily maintenance of tiles after the initial cleaning of the installed tiles has been performed.

## (B) PURPOSE

Tiles are easy to clean and maintain, however, it is important that an effective cleaning regime is established for each area and type of surface texture of the tiles.

## (C) MATTING SYSTEM – Cleaner and Safer Flooring

Matting is highly recommended at the entrance of a building or commercial area to stop dirt and moisture damage and for ease of maintenance.

## (D) GENERAL CLEANING

1. Sweep or vacuum to remove loose soil, sand or dirt contaminants.
2. Wash with clean water by mopping or scrubbing machine.
3. Depending on soil load, a more aggressive cleaning process may be required by using a neutral low sulphate cleaner then followed by a thorough rinsing.

## (E) DAILY MAINTENANCE

### (i) For Unpolished, Matt and Honed Finished Tiles

1. Sweep or vacuum the floor of all loose dirt, sand and other foreign materials.
2. If there are difficult-to-remove contaminants on the surface of tile, firstly identify the specific spill or contaminant as different surface contaminants require different cleaning methods and chemicals.
3. Ensure detergent does not contain “hydrofluoric acid” or its compound, household bleaches, mosaic cleaner, etc. as they may attack the surface of tiles.
4. Please read and follow the manufacturer’s instructions and recommended usage.
5. Test cleaning in a small area first to see if etches the tiles or erodes the grout.
6. Do subdivide a large floor with few smaller sections to ease of the cleaning process.
7. If there is no issue with step 5, then to proceed cleaning a larger floor area by mopping or with the aid of scrubbing machine. Rinse the floor with clean and clear water and buff with a dry mop or using squeeze.
8. Replace the dirty cleaning solution and continue step no. 7.

9. It is important that all cleaner residues be completely removed from the tile surface. Any remaining residue that dry on the tile will form a coating which may trap dirt and be very difficult to clean later.
10. Rough textured tiles usually require a more regular cleaning maintenance and a little scrubbing may be needed.
11. For the difficult-to-remove contaminants, scrub the floor with nylon pad or bristle brush or affix the gentle scrubbing pad to the floor scrubbing machine for cleaning at a commercial area.

**(ii) For Polished Tiles**

1. Sweep or vacuum the floor of loose dirt.
2. Mop with a mild cleaning solution. Use 50% detergent concentrate than one would use on an unpolished floor.
3. Use damp mop with clean water for rinsing.
4. Dry thoroughly with a soft cloth or buffing pad to increase the shine and prevent water spots.
5. If cleaning is done with the aid of a scrubbing machine, please use melamine foam pad to prevent scratches on the tiles.
6. If there is stubborn dirt on the tiles, i.e. tyre mark at car showroom, try cleaning with a damp melamine foam pad.

**(iii) For Wet Areas**

1. Soap scum on walls can be cleaned with a damp melamine foam pad, e.g., magic sponge, magic eraser, Japanese sponge, wonder sponge, etc.
2. Flush or rinse with clean water.
3. Soap scum on floor can be minimised by using a squeegee after each use.

**(F) TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL MAINTENANCE OF TILES**

1. All spills should be cleaned as quickly as possible.
2. Use only recommended dilution of detergent.

**APPENDIX: Example of Suitable Products for Treating Specific Stains**

TYPE	STAIN	RECOMMENDATION
Food group	Soy sauce, cola, coffee, tea, juice, beer, wine, icecream, ketchup	Alkaline based detergent
Oil & Grease	Vegetable oil, mineral oil, petroleum	Alkaline based detergent
	Wax, rubber	Scrape off, then use solvent turpentine followed by alkaline based detergent
	Lipstick, shoe polish	Alkaline based detergent
	Oil based paint	Turpentine or thinner
	Ink	Solvents such as turpentine or thinner
	Mortar	Alkaline based detergent
	Rust stains	Diluted Hydrochloride acid or acidic based detergent
Marker	Felt pen	Thinner
	Methylene Blue	Alkaline based detergent
	Crayon	Scrape off, then use solvent turpentine followed by alkaline based detergent
Tile Grout	Cement	Diluted Hydrochloride acid
	Latex, polymer	Solvents such as turpentine or thinner
	Epoxy	Scraper to scrape it off

*Please remember that these recommendations are intended as a general guideline only. Read all product directions before use and always test a small area first.*

For any further instructions please contact your local Tile Warehouse representative.

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