

Residential Environments

Cleaning Myths

Sealing a surface with a Dry-Treat impregnating sealer will make the surface stain resistant, but not dirt resistant. The sealed surface should be cleaned as regularly as a non-sealed surface. If a problematic substance such as sticky tree gum falls on the surface, it will still be difficult to clean off, but should not permanently stain the surface.

Recommended cleaning program

- Regular maintenance is important to keep a sealed surface looking good.
- The surface should be swept or vacuumed regularly to keep the floor free of abrasive grit and dirt which can wear the surface when walked on.
- Whenever possible, light sweeping or vacuuming should be undertaken rather than wet mopping, and also before mopping so as to minimise any residue left on the surface by mopping.
- The surface should be lightly mopped weekly, using a mild, neutral pH detergent and a clean mop. Rinse the mop and change the water frequently. The surface can be buffed with a clean cloth or suitable buffing pad to remove any leftover mop or water marks.
- Acidic substances (wine, orange juice, cola) may etch surfaces if allowed to sit on calcium based stone (such as limestone, marble and travertine) and should be mopped up with water and a mild, neutral pH detergent as soon as possible.
- Rough surfaces treated with an impregnating penetrating sealer can be scrubbed with a bristle brush and a mild, neutral pH detergent diluted in clean water. The surface should then be mopped (as above) to remove the loosened dirt from the surface. Do not buff.

Recommended general maintenance

- Mop up any spills immediately to reduce absorption. Spot clean using diluted acid-free bleach, neutral pH detergent or similar.
- Walk-off mats should be used and surfaces should be kept free of dirt by regular sweeping or vacuuming - this protects the finish of the tile by eliminating much of the abrasive grit that will wear the surface. Vacuum or shake out the walk-off mats daily.
- Use S-P CLEANER monthly, in accordance with the instructions on the container label. This cleaner helps remove soiling whilst enhancing resistance to stains.
- Scrub surfaces once every six months with a strong cleaner such as diluted acid-free bleach.

Commercial Environments

Important precautions

- Adequate signage should be used to warn people not to walk on wet surfaces. All cleaning residues (detergents, chemicals, cleaners) must be thoroughly removed from the surface before allowing pedestrians to walk on it.

Recommended cleaning program – ALL SURFACES

- Clean up spills as soon as possible with water and a neutral pH detergent.
- Sweep and mop the surface daily

Recommended cleaning program – INDOOR, TEXTURED SURFACES

- High traffic areas / areas with food products should be scrubbed every 2 days – 1 week.
- An autoscrubber /; scribing machine with a suitable cleaning pad may be used, and non-acidic cleaning chemicals / detergents.
- Alternatively, the areas can be steam cleaned every 2 days to 1 week.
- Low traffic areas can be scrubbed or steam less frequently.
- For spot cleaning, an acid free, diluted bleach may be used and a doodlebug.

Recommended cleaning program – INDOOR, POLISHED SURFACES

- Mop daily, using clear, fresh water and a pH neutral detergent. The mop water should be changed frequently.
- High traffic areas / areas with food products should be scrubbed or steamed every 2 days – 1 week, as for INDOOR, TEXTURED SURFACES above.

Recommended cleaning program – OUTDOOR TEXTURED AND POLISHED SURFACES

- Same as for indoor surfaces, but pressure washing can be used instead of steaming or scrubbing.