

Cleaning Maximum Porcelain Panels

Regular cleaning for floors & walls

Initial cleaning – the initial cleaning immediately completed after the flooring laid is of essential importance for removing all mortar, adhesives, grout and epoxy residues that may be left in the joints. In this initial phase, we recommend that you use an acid based tile cleaning product, as this will minimise future dirt build up. It is also recommended to use grout sealers to maintain clean grout lines. Do not use cleaners that have high alkaline pH levels, such as oven or drain cleaners. Avoid hydrofluoric acid or its compounds. Use PH neutral cleaning products for general use after initial cleaning process. **Note:** Always do a test strip with the cleaning product that you intend to use.

Cleaning Steps

Vacuum – Vacuum or wipe the tiles to remove loose dust and grit from the surface.

Damp clean – Clean using a microfibre mop or cloth dampened with warm water (no chemicals are necessary when using good-quality microfibre). If you have a smooth floor, use a flat microfibre mop. If your floor tiles are textured, use a microfibre string mop which can more easily enter the texture of the tile. The mop or cloth will ‘grab’ the surface and lift off most daily grime. Use some pressure to work the microfibre – floating it lightly over the surface will not be so productive!

Spot clean (if necessary) – Spot clean any spills, marks or stains using a neutral pH chemical such as Slique Cleansing Fluid or PH neutral cleaner from Elite Coatings. Your local tile shop will have other neutral ceramic cleaning or porcelain cleaning chemicals that are suitable for commercial or domestic use. If using a chemical, rinse the surface lightly with clean water.

Dry – DO NOT leave to dry naturally – dry using an old towel or a clean, dry mop. **Note:** continued use of this porcelain cleaning regime will improve heavily contaminated tiles over time, but faster recovery can be achieved using intensive cleaning.

Intensive cleaning for walls & floors.

Vacuum – Vacuum or wipe tiles to remove loose grit from the surface.

Scrub – Scrub a small area (about 3-4 square metres) using a light solution of tile cleaner suitable for your tiles, such as Slique’s heavy duty tile cleaner. Your local tile shop will have something suitable for tile cleaning home use. Use a soft brush or broom to work the solution into the pores of the tiles and grout. Continue to complete small areas until the entire surface has been scrubbed.

Soak – Leave the solution to work for several minutes, then scrub again.

Extract – When the solution has lifted out the dirt, remove the liquid and dirt using an old towel or clean, dry mop.

Rinse – Pour clean water over the surface to rinse.

Dry – DO NOT leave the surface to dry naturally. Use a clean cloth or mop to soak up any water.

General recommendations

For commercial and heavily used surface areas such as airports, hospitals, supermarkets, and any public spaces with heavy foot traffic which are thus subject to considerable soiling, it is necessary to use automatic cleaning machines with suction of the washing liquids. This allows not only deep cleaning, but also the continuous removal of liquids containing substances that cause soiling, thus preventing the formation of films which are very difficult to remove.

Common Cleaning Mistakes

Using the wrong cleaning products – too harsh a chemical or too abrasive a cleaner.

Using too much product – dilute as per instructions, more is NOT better.

Applying too much water to the surface – flooding the area.

Not changing the water or cleaning solution often enough.

Not finishing with a rinse to remove any cleaner – or chemical residue.

Leaving residual moisture on the floors – make sure to dry mop, wet vac or dry with an old towel or rag so that there is no residual moisture left on the floors (especially in the grout joints).