

BTI Guide to Cleaning and Maintenance

Post Installation Cleaning

Cleaning after installation is essential for both glazed and nonglazed tiles.

A post installation cleaning, not carried out correctly or not carried out at all, often results in halos preventing the floor from looking clean, despite careful daily cleaning. This cleaning should be implemented using a special post installation detergent that can easily be found on the market. It is also important that this cleaning be conducted in a timely manner, using the manufacturer's recommended guidelines, as it becomes much more difficult later on.

Always make preventative tests before the use of any detergent [on a tile not laid yet] especially for lappato or polished products.

Anti-slip surfaces. Due to their special features rough or anti-slip surfaces are harder to clean. It is thus recommended to be very careful while cleaning, above all intervening quickly.

Cleaning for epoxy, bi- component, reagent and dark/black grouts.

Removal of the residues from these grouts must be carried out immediately and thoroughly. Please follow the cleaning mode recommended by the manufacturers of the grout used; verify its effectiveness [backlight also] with a preliminary cleaning test **before** grouting the entire wall/floor.

Routine Cleaning.

To maintain the surface with regular cleaning we would recommend sweeping or vacuuming then washing with a neutral detergent, rinsing the surface with clean water afterwards. Avoid using products containing waxes and polishing additives as they can leave undesired surface deposits.

It should be noted that Hydrofluoric Acid {HF} and its derivatives may damage the tiles permanently.

Extraordinary Cleaning

In the case of specific and/or particularly stubborn stains, we recommend using detergents as indicated below. It should be noted that the removal of any type of stain is easier when the stain is still fresh. It is always important to test the detergents on a small area before applying to the entire surface, particularly in the case of porcelain stoneware with a lappato or polished surface.

<u>Type of dirt /Stain</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Detergents</u>
Limescale, carbon, rust,	phosphoric acid	Grout haze remover
Mortar, pencil, metal residue		
Cement grout, coloured grout		
Beer, coffee, rubber, fat	Alkaline solution	multi-purpose, ammonia / bleach
Wax, ink, oil, marker pens	Solvent	Acetone

For your reference, the Australian Standards relevant documents are:

Standards AS3958, 1-2007 Appendix C Cleaning & Maintenance