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Cleaning, Protecting and Maintenance of Structured or Polished Tiles (Porcelain)

FZ products are specifically developed for protecting, restoring and maintaining porcelain tiles.

These tiles are very hard wearing and stain resistant, and with the proper care products will remain as good as new for a very long time. Porcelain tiles come in a wide variety of patterns and designs and in two basic textures; a machine polished high shine finish and a matt or textured eggshell finish. By following the steps outlined in this method statement, you can ensure that your tiles will live up to their reputation for low maintenance and easy cleaning.

Pre sealing prior to laying tiles

It is advisory for all natural stone products that have a porosity of >.3%. Pre Sealing is a precautionary measure taken to prevent the product from staining throughout the laying process. Cover the entire tiles surface with Pro, ensuring that the product is absorbed into the tiles pores & capillaries. (Check the suitability of product when using stones that are acid sensitive or polished.)

Initial cleaning

Generally porcelain tiles will require little cleaning after laying and grouting because of their general surface constitution. After laying all porcelain tiles must be cleaned with FZ Cement-Residue-Remover (formally KF Cement-Residue-Remover) to clean grout residue from the tile surface. Washing only with water is not enough to remove these residues.

To clean blemishes, stains, scuff marks, ingrained and heavy dirt residues etc from the tile surface, clean with FZ Intensive-Cleaner. For structured surfaces a brush or brushing machine maybe required.

Wax residues

Many porcelain tiles have a protective wax residue on sections or over the entire surface of the tile. This wax film is heavy organic dirt and is best removed with a solvent based cleaner. WAX-OFF dissolves wax films, and is easily rinsed clean with clear water. Apply WAX-OFF undiluted to the dry surface and distribute evenly with a brush, broom, mop, lambs wool or other applicator. Allow the product to work for 10 to 20 minutes, brushing occasionally until all deposits are dissolved, add clear water, brush again and rinse the cleaner from the surface with clear water. On large surfaces use a squeegee or a wet/dry vacuum. Always thoroughly rinse with clear water. In cases of stubborn deposits, repeat this procedure when the surface has dried.

Important: Some particular wax residues will require a different cleaner. Wax residues that cannot be removed with WAX-OFF will require a different cleaner.
 Apply FZ Intensive-Cleaner and leave on the surface undiluted until all wax residues are dissolved. Occasionally brush the surface during this period with a broom before adding water and brushing again. Rinse the surface thoroughly with clear water.

Refurbishing old surfaces

In order to restore the old surface and grout lines to their original condition, use FZ Intensive-Cleaner to remove any blemishes such as ingrained dirt, scuff marks, oil residues, staining, layers of unsuitable maintenance products etc. For structured surfaces a brush or brushing machine maybe required.

Protection

Although most porcelain tiles are stain resistant, we still recommend the use of a protective sealer on polished surfaces. This will ensure that staining, especially on lighter coloured tiles will be greatly reduced and will facilitate regular maintenance of the material. Grout lines are also impregnated and protected from staining. FZ Stain-Stop >W< and FZ Stain-Stop, are impregnators specifically designed for the lower porosity of the material. These products prevent substances such as oil, grease, water and general dirt from penetrating into the surface. When treating used floors, it is necessary that the surface and grout lines be cleaned with FZ Intensive-Cleaner carefully before treatment.

Maintenance

Porcelain tiles treated will require little maintenance. Simply add a small squirt of FZ Cleanser to the warm washing water, cleaning the floor with a short strand mop or similar. No rinsing required. Clean heavily soiled surfaces or textured tiles with FZ Intensive-Cleaner to remove ingrained dirt or stubborn marks, for occasional use only. For structured surfaces, a brush or brushing machine is helpful. To regularly clean bathroom and sanitary areas, use KF Active-Clean.

Porcelain Protection

Many porcelain tiles are protected during transport with a thin wax coating applied by the manufacturer.

This coating makes the tile appear dull, and must be removed after grouting and before sealing with the following process.

The Process

<i>Porcelain Tile Surface with no Wax coating</i>	<i>Step 1</i>	<i>Porcelain Tile Surface with Wax coating</i>
grout as usual	<i>Step 1</i>	grout as usual
remove grout residue with FZ Cement-Residue-Remover dilute 1:15 with clear water	<i>Step 2</i>	remove Wax residues with WAX-OFF apply neat
seal with FZ Stain-Stop >W< apply neat	<i>Step 3</i>	seal with FZ Stain-Stop >W< apply neat
maintain regularly with FZ Cleanser dilute 1:200 with clear water	<i>Step 4</i>	maintain regularly with FZ Cleanser dilute 1:200 with clear water

Note: Wax residues come in all forms. At times a stronger product will be required to remove these residues. Try FZ Intensive-Cleaner undiluted or diluted 1:1 with clear water. Apply this cleaner to the surface and occasionally brush with a white nylon pad or broom until wax residues dissolve.

Cleaning

Removing	Recommend Product
stubborn dirt, care product residues, dirt build-up, greasy and oily surface residues, soap residues, felt-pen	FZ Intensive-Cleaner
Wax layers, old sealants, fresh tar and paint, soot	WAX-OFF
lime deposits, rust, efflorescence, water stains, grout residue	FZ Cement-Residue-Remover
green deposits, algae, moss	ALGEX
mildew, mould	KF Mildew-Away

Maintenance

every-day cleaning of all surfaces	FZ Cleanser
cleaning of wet areas (shower, bath, kitchen)	KF Active-Clean
cleaning of porcelain in high traffic and outdoor areas	FZ Intensive-Cleaner

Important: Avoid using, resting or placing products on your porcelain surfaces that may contain methylated spirits, bleaches, chlorine, acid, citric acid and corrosives. These types of products can cause permanent damage to the stone composition and will break down the sealer. Limit the use of wax or acrylate-based products as they promote a build up of layers.

Incompatible products reduce the longevity of sealed surfaces and may affect the stone composition.

This information should be considered to be informal and non-binding. The products must be used according to local conditions and materials. Instructions must be read carefully and followed closely, Technical Information sheets available. When no previous experience is available, or in case of doubt, tests the product in an inconspicuous area.

DISCLAIMER

The technical details, recommendations and other information contained in this data sheet are given in good faith and represent the best of our knowledge and experience at the time of printing. It is your responsibility to ensure that our products are used and handled correctly and in accordance with any applicable Australian Standard, our instructions and recommendations and only for the uses they are intended. We also reserve the right to update information without prior notice to you to reflect our ongoing research and development program.

Country specific recommendations, depending on local standards, codes of practice, building regulations or industry guidelines, may effect specific installation recommendations.

The supply of our products & services is also subject to certain terms, warranties and exclusions, which may have already been disclosed to you in prior dealings or are otherwise available to you on request. You should make yourself familiar with them.