

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

This is the normal cleaning carried out on floors and walls and usually consists in:

- **vacuuming** dust, dirt, grit;
- **washing** with diluted neutral or alkaline detergent.

Areas demanding high hygiene standards (kitchens, food stores, etc.) need to be cleaned more frequently, even on a daily basis.

Natural surfaces

To clean natural surfaces only use **warm water and mild alkaline detergents available from most retailers** (products containing hydrofluoric acid and its derivatives should not be used).

We do not recommend using detergents containing **wax**, to avoid creating an oily coating on the surface of the slab.

With particularly difficult stains, we recommend you **clean the area** by following the instructions in the *Type of detergent according to the type of dirt* table, included at the end of this chapter.

Polished and glossy surfaces

To clean polished and glossy surfaces only use **warm water and mild alkaline detergents available from most retailers** (products containing hydrofluoric acid and its derivatives should not be used).

We recommend you **periodically carry out special cleaning** with specific detergents, such as buffer acids or professional oil-repellents: this will allow you to remove any remaining dirt and helps maintain the floor's shine over time.

We do not recommend using detergents containing **wax**, to avoid creating an oily coating on the surface of the slab.

With particularly difficult stains, we recommend you **clean the area** by following the instructions in the *Type of detergent according to the type of dirt* table, included at the end of this chapter.

SPECIAL MAINTENANCE

This is a particularly intense and accurate type of cleaning that you may need to carry out **once a year or every six months**. It is conducted by following the same instructions given for routine maintenance, but by using alkaline detergents with medium concentration.

TYPE OF DETERGENT ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF DIRT

Below are some of the substances indicated to remove stains. The instructions are grouped by type of product and do not contain references to specific detergents: however, these features are clearly indicated on the labels of detergents available from most retailers.

Type of dirt	Type of detergent
Grease and oil	Alkaline detergent
Ink	Sodium hypochlorite solution (bleach) or acid detergent
Rust	Acid detergent
Limescale and cement build-up	Acid detergent
Bear, wine, coffee	Sodium hypochlorite solution (bleach) or alkaline detergent
Tyre marks	Organic solvent (trichloroethylene, thinner)
Ice cream	Alkaline detergent
Resin	Organic solvent (white spirit, thinner)
Fruit juice	Diluted sodium hypochlorite solution (bleach)
Pen marks (permanent marker)	Organic solvent (acetone, thinner)
Aluminium scratch marks	Acid detergent or abrasive detergent (cream/powder)
Other stains	Abrasive cream detergent

WARNING

- We recommend you always **follow the manufacturer's recommended dosages and times** by carrying out tests on non-installed material or concealed areas of the installed surface.
- If using **acid** detergents, we recommend you always **thoroughly soak the joints** before cleaning to protect them from the corrosive action of the detergent.
- If dealing with an area with **special cleaning needs** (kitchens, hospitals, shops, ect.) or an area subject to **particularly difficult dirt** to remove (outdoor flooring, offices, ect.), it is best to carry out the abovementioned cleaning operations in combination with washer-driers and specific products.
- Before cleaning, we recommend you **always carefully read the technical files** contained in the catalogues of each collection.