

## Cleaning and maintenance

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### Wall tiles

#### Builders Clean

This should be undertaken prior to wall being brought into service. The builders clean removes cement and residual film left over from grouting process and is a one-off cleaning process. It is important that this is carried out professionally and thoroughly as any grout residues left behind will act as a key for dirt.

#### Cementitious Grouts

The use of a mild acid decementing solution followed by thorough rinsing will remove all but the most stubborn of cement residues.

#### Epoxide Grouts

It is essential that ALL residues from the grouting process are removed from the tile's surface before the resin cures. If you don't do this, it will become a very difficult and expensive cleaning process using gel-type epoxide removers.

#### Epoxide Grouts

Glazed wall tiles can be wiped with warm water to which a neutral or nearly neutral detergent has been added.

#### Periodic Deep Cleaning

Occasionally foreign matter may cause surface marks on tiles. If the surface mark cannot be removed with the normal cleaning procedures detailed above, other cleaning materials should be considered. It is advisable to try a small inconspicuous area first.

#### Paint

 Paint remover

**Organic stains** Bleach or a one-off treatment with washing soda

**Rust** Masonry cleaner

**Rubber** Abrasive powder or liquid but not on glazed tiles

**Oil, fat, grease** Detergent or degreasers

**Mould growth** Household bleach or proprietary cleaner

**Tea, coffee, ink** Household bleach or proprietary cleaner

Abrasive powders or cleaners should never be used on ceramic tiles.

### Floor tiles

#### Builders Clean

This should be undertaken prior to floor being used. The builders clean removes cement and residual film left over from the grouting process and is a one-off cleaning process. It is important that this is carried out professionally and thoroughly as any grout residues left behind will act as a key for dirt.

#### Cementitious Grouts

The use of a mild acid decementing solution followed by thorough rinsing will remove all but the most stubborn of cement residues.

#### Epoxide Grouts

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#### Routine Cleaning

The regular use of detergents or other cleaning agents which are excessively acidic or alkaline could cause irreversible damage to the ceramic tile surface. Degreasing agents that contain wax, sodium silicate or other additives which leave sticky deposits and so retain dirt should be avoided. Oil residues or build-ups of wax can be removed with a proprietary wax and polish remover.

#### Epoxide Grouts

In normal conditions ceramic tiles require little maintenance. Un-glazed porcelain floor tiles can be maintained by sweeping and cleaning with warm water to which a neutral or nearly neutral detergent has been added. The cleaning solution should be allowed to remain on the floor for 5 to 15 minutes to allow it to penetrate and emulsify the dirt, after which it should be removed by rinsing thoroughly with clean water. It is the rinsing process which removes the dirt so the use of clean water is essential.

## **Mechanical Floor Cleaning**

When cleaning large floor areas or areas of textured floor tiles mechanical scrubbing machines can be used – although they should not be used at over 450rpm. Rotary scrubbing machines fall into 3 categories, Rotary Action, Contra-Rotating and Cylindrical, and choice of brush is important on all three. Nylon brushes are suitable for light washing and scrubbing whereas Polypropylene brushes are more suitable when dirt deposits are especially heavy. The cleaning solution should be allowed to remain in contact with the dirt for 5 to 15 minutes after which a secondary scrubbing action and clean mop or suction should be undertaken to remove the dirt and solution.

## **High Pressure Floor Cleaning**

This is not often required with modern porcelain floor tiles. While the process will not damage the tiles, care must be taken to avoid erosion of the grouting medium. It is important to ensure that the water beam is not allowed to concentrate on the joints but is moved side to side in a continuous flowing movement avoiding joints wherever possible. Water containing abrasives or steam cleaners must NEVER be used on any ceramic tiles.

## **Periodic Deep Cleaning**

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**Paint** Paint remover

**Organic stains** Bleach or a one-off treatment with washing soda

**Rust** Masonry cleaner

**Rubber** Abrasive powder or liquid but not on glazed tiles

**Oil, fat, grease** Detergent or degreasers

**Mould growth** Household bleach or proprietary cleaner

**Tea, coffee, ink** Household bleach or proprietary cleaner

**For more information please call the Johnson Technical helpline on +44 (0)1782 524111 or email [technical@johnson-tiles.com](mailto:technical@johnson-tiles.com).**