

Builders clean

A thorough builders clean is essential for a care free floor and starts during grouting.

Grouting and pre-cleaning

- 1 - Prepare and mix grout according to producer's instructions.
- 2 - Clean the tiled surface with a moist sponge to remove dust and dirt. The remaining water film will cover minuscule irregularities in the surface of the tiles and will thus ease the process of grouting.
- 3 - Apply the grout and remove as much as possible surplus grout from the tiled surface with a grout float.
- 4 - Leave joints to dry until they start to get a matt appearance. This may take 15 to 45 minutes. (Advice: if, when touching the joint with a finger, the grout does not stick to the finger then the joints are ready to be sponged).
- 5 - Rub down the tiled surface in rotating movement with a moist sponge float or a wrung out sponge. This "pre-cleaning" action will give the joints a smooth appearance and may prevent the grout residue from attaching to the tiles.

Attention: use as little water as possible! Too much water during pre-cleaning may result in loss of quality and discolouration of the joints.

The tiled surface is now ready to be sponged.

Cleaning

To remove the pre-cleaned grout residue from the tiles Mosa recommends using a sponge float and a cleaning basin with rolls and plenty of clean water. The water needs to be refreshed in frequent intervals.

- 6 - Soak a clean sponge float in the cleaning basin and press out the surplus water
Sponge down the tiled surface - SLOWLY and in DIAGONAL direction - with a sponge float and only clean water.
- 7 - Clean the dirty sponge float in the cleaning basin after every sponging .
- 8 - Repeat these actions until the tiled surface is clean and refresh the water frequently.
- 9 - Dry the surface with a cloth or a paper towel.
- 10 - It is recommended to refrain from covering the tiled surface after grouting until all the remaining moist from the adhesive and the joints has evaporated. This may take 24 to 72 hours. Should this however be unavoidable then it is recommended to use a breathable material. The use of a non-breathing cover should be avoided in any case, until all moist is evaporated.

Cement residue removal

Should any grout residue be left on the surface of the tile after the cleaned surface has dried then Mosa recommends the use of a cement residue remover*:

Mosa recommends:

HMK R59 (Moeller Stonecare)

www.moellerstonecare.co.uk

KF Cement residue remover (Lithofin)

www.lithofin.com

- 1 - Dilute the cement residue remover according to the manufacturer's instructions! Overdosing may irreversibly erode the joints!
- 2 - Wet the surface with a mop and clean water. The joints will absorb the water and will thus be protected against the effects of the cement residue remover.
- 3 - Apply the cement residue remover with a sponge or brush and rub it in gently.
- 4 - Allow the cleaning solution to react for a short period of time, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure the cleaning solution does not dry up. Drying up may cause the soaked up cement residue to re-attach to the surface even more tenaciously.
Large areas should be cleaned in sections (e.g. 20m²).
- 5 - Give the cleaning agent a second rub and remove it immediately from the floor. It is advised to use a water vacuum cleaner.
Please pay special attention to structured or profiled tiles: Ascertain that the entire cleaning fluid and dissolved grout residue has been completely removed from the floor through thorough rinsing and drying.
- 6 - Immediately after removing the cleaning agent the floor must be mopped thoroughly with clean water only. This will remove the last remnants of cleaning agent and cement residue.

If the cement residue is not completely removed it may cause dirt originated from daily use to attach tenaciously to the floor. Hence a thorough cleaning will enhance the user friendliness of the floor tiles whilst maintaining their original appearance.

Warnings

* Before using acidic detergents, such as cement-residue removers, it is important to ascertain whether the surface is acid resistant (grout, decorative elements made of e.g. natural stone, stainless steel etc.).

Silicone: hardened silicone sealant barely reacts with chemical and other cleaning agents at all. Silicone stains are therefore very difficult to remove from any type of material. When sealing joints, you should therefore avoid leaving stains as much as possible and remove any spillage immediately. For further information: see the websites of silicone sealant manufacturers.

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Important

Mosa will not accept any complaints or responsibility if a deviation of above mentioned cleaning advice can be established.

No rights may be derived from these recommendations. Users should apprise themselves beforehand of the product features, guidelines and safety instructions of the manufacturers by reading the product and safety information.



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Maintenance advice for consumers

Mosa tiles have a timeless appearance which they will retain for their entire useable life if looked after correctly. This is simple so long as a few pieces of advice are followed, such as making limited use of cleaning products.

Builders clean A good beginning is half the work done: a good builders clean will enhance the ease of maintenance of your Mosa wall and floor tiles. For further information about the builders clean please visit the the English pages of www.mosa.nl under the header "Information".

Spot cleaning Spot cleaning means a reactive cleaning of ad hoc spillages. Remove dirt immediately and thoroughly using appropriate materials (e.g. a wet cloth, paper towel, sponge or mop) and dry with a clean dry cloth or mop. For advice on how to remove specific, tenacious stains please contact Mosa through info@mosa.nl.

Regular maintenance The daily or weekly cleaning of floor or wall tiles.

Wall tiles Wipe down wall tiles regularly with a moist microfibre cloth. An all-purpose cleaner can be used in the case of more tenacious dirt. It is recommended to use a spray bottle containing water and just a few drops of the all-purpose cleaner. Spray this solution directly onto the microfibre cloth and then use it to clean the surface concerned. If necessary, dry with a dry cloth. Once saturated with dirt, replace the microfibre cloth with a clean one.

Floor tiles Regular vacuuming or wiping prevents the accumulation of dust and dirt. Special dusting cloths are available with a special fibrous texture that attracts and keeps hold of dust and dirt. The use of impregnated cloths is not recommended. These cloths contain oil or paraffin, and leave a thin layer behind on the tiles during wiping which easily attracts new dust and dirt. Impregnated cloths can often be recognised by the foil packaging – often resealable – that prevents them from drying out.

The floor will need to be wet-cleaned regularly to remove more tenacious dirt. Prior to wet cleaning, first remove loose dirt by vacuuming or sweeping.

Mosa recommends cleaning floor tiles with a flat-mop system with a microfibre mop.

The microfibre mop should be lightly moistened with water; the use of too much water will reduce the effectiveness of the microfibres.

We recommend the use of a microfibre system with an integrated water-dispensing system, like the Sprekner system by Greenspeed (www.greenspeed.info).

Alternatively use a spray bottle and spray a little water directly onto the microfibre mop. Moisten the mop again if it becomes too dry.

A little bit of cleaning vinegar or ammonia or just a few drops of a special tile cleaner, e.g. HMK R57 from Moeller Stonecare (www.moellerstonecare.co.uk), may be added to the water.

Replace the mop with a clean one if it becomes saturated with dirt. Microfibre mops and cloths can be machine-washed after use. Do not use a fabric conditioner in the wash.

Deep cleaning Floor tiles that in time get a dirty and patchy appearance can be restored to their original state by means of a deep cleaning. For advice on deep cleaning please see www.mosa.nl, under the header "Information".



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Deep cleaning advice

Even on floors cleaned regularly and correctly in time a residue film can be formed from limescale particles and cleaning agent residues left behind by the cleaning water. A floor that becomes dirty and patchy due to the formation of a residue layer can be restored to its original state by means of an intensive cleaning.

Intensive Cleaner (strong alkaline)

For deep cleaning, your floor tiles need to be scrubbed with a solution of a strong alkaline intensive cleaner in water. Use an intensive cleaner without added sheen, protective agents or impregnating agents, as these agents get left behind on the floor and thus form a new source of dirt. Alternatively, a proper natural, pure liquid soap is also very suitable to dissolve and remove tenacious contamination from ceramic floor tiles.

Mosa recommends:

Natural, pure liquid soap

HMK R57 (Moeller Stonecare)

FZ Intensive Cleaning (Lithofin)

www.moellerstonecare.co.uk

www.lithofin.com

Switch off the under-floor heating (if applicable) well in advance and wait until the floor has cooled to room temperature. Remove loose dirt by vacuuming or sweeping before cleaning.

Dilute the intensive cleaner with water in the proportion recommended by the manufacturer and apply this solution to the floor.

Scrub it in with a scrubbing broom and leave to work in for some minutes. Please refer to the instructions on the packaging. Ensure that the cleaning liquid does not dry up on the floor in the meantime. Having left the cleaning liquid for some minutes, it must then be fully removed from the floor. The use of a water vacuum-cleaner makes it easier to remove the liquid, and leaves the floor dry. The quantity of cleaning liquid left behind, with dirt dissolved into it, is thus kept to a minimum.

Finally, mop the floor with a clean (microfibre) mop and clean water only. This will remove the very last traces of cleaning liquid and will leave the floor to dry up without streaks.

Rotary floor buffer

For larger floor areas, the use of a rotary floor buffer is recommended. These clean floors effectively and effortlessly, in a fraction of the time needed to scrub the floor by hand. Rotary floor buffers, as well as water vacuum-cleaners, can be hired from specialist rental companies and DIY stores.

Acidic intensive cleaner

In few cases an alkaline intensive cleaner will not be sufficient to remove all the dirt and a second cleaning phase will be required, using an acidic cleaning agent. This could be the case, for example, if tough limescale deposits have formed on the floor, or if light residues of cement or grout have remained on the surface as a consequence of an incomplete builders clean. The product to be chosen must contain a high concentration of an acidic ingredient and be suitable for use on ceramic floor tiles*.

Mosa recommends:

HMK R59 (Moeller Stonecare)

KF Cement Residue Remover (Lithofin)

www.moellerstonecare.co.uk

www.lithofin.com

The same method as described above for natural, pure liquid soap, should be followed.

* Some acidic cleaners can corrode natural stone and metallic surfaces. Direct contact between natural stone and metallic surfaces (such as taps and mixers, hinges and decorative strips) and acidic cleaners should therefore be strictly avoided. It is also recommended to clean such surfaces with a neutral all-purpose cleaner to avoid corrosion by the acidic vapours that may form when using strong acidic cleaners.



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