



CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are based on our general practical experience. They reflect the latest developments in cleaning technology according to our knowledge at the time of publication. However, we accept no liability for completeness, accuracy and applicability in individual cases.

Insofar as these recommendations include information on cleaning products, machines and equipment, the instructions from the relevant manufacturers are decisive.

The criteria in accordance with RAL 991 A3 must also be taken into account for cleaning.

General cleaning-related properties

In order to make the right choice of textile floor coverings, the factors with a direct impact on subsequent care of the floor covering must first be considered. The susceptibility to dirt depends, for example, on the colour, the type of fibres and the structure of the wear layer.

Finally, appropriate dirt-trapping zones in the entrances and corridors of the building play a significant role in preventing dirt accumulation on the floor covering.

Colour selection

The extent to which the accumulation of dirt is visible on a textile floor covering depends on the colour of the floor covering and the type of dirt. Flecked and patterned floor coverings generally have more favourable properties in this regard than single-coloured coverings.

By way of example, here is a comparison of the susceptibility to dirt of the various colours:

Colours that are very susceptible to dirt:

white, yellow, light grey, mid grey, light beige, all pastel shades

Colours that are less susceptible to dirt:

blue, purple, red, dark beige, light green

Colours that are not susceptible to dirt:

dark, muted flecked shades, anthracite, dark brown, olive and other green shades.

Fibres

One important factor for the quality of fibrebonded floor coverings is the choice of the fibres. Polyamide is the

best type of fibre when manufacturing fibrebonded floor coverings and has unique characteristics such as high resistance to wear, pressure, abrasion, felting and dirt. It should be pointed out here that high-quality fibrebonded floor coverings have a high proportion of coarse polyamide fibres that further reinforce the above-mentioned positive characteristics. If cleaning is necessary, correct treatment means that the fibres can look like new again.

Structure

The ease of maintenance of a textile floor covering also depends on its surface finish. The majority of fibrebonded floor coverings have a double-layer structure (wear layer + backing layer). For cleaning, only the wear layer is of particular interest. Due to the loop-like structure, a large part of the accumulating dirt is concealed deep within the fibrebonded floor covering structure. Single-layered fibrebonded floor coverings mostly consist of fibre blends with varying proportions of polypropylene, polyester and polyamide. This determines the functionality and service life of such fibrebonded floor coverings.

Dirt-trapping zones

A large part of the usual dirt that is carried into the building can be avoided by placing dirt traps in front of the entrances and clean-off zones in the entrance areas, in lifts and in front of escalators. An effective dirt-trapping zone should be large enough that no one can walk past it and everyone must take several steps through it.

Experience has shown that a dirt-trapping zone measuring approximately five metres in length collects approximately 90% of the dirt that is carried into the building. It is recommended to place a coarse rubber mat, roller brushes or grates outside in front of the door area in order to catch the dirt.

Inside the building, people walk over the dirt-trapping carpet and/or through the clean-off zone. This material has been specially developed for this purpose and absorbs moisture as well as collecting dirt. In order to avoid contamination of adjacent areas as a result of the clean-off zone becoming saturated with dirt, this must be cleaned or replaced in good time.

1 Cleaning after completion of the construction work

If possible, the cleaning after completion of the construction work should be carried out for the first time as "dry cleaning" using a powerful vacuum cleaner (with mechanically-rotating, soft brushes). We advise against any "spray-extraction cleaning".

A suitable stain remover must be used in a targeted manner. For example, subsequent cleaning following the "pad procedure" offers the following advantages: every little moisture is added to the floor covering; no long drying times are required; the cleaned surface can be walked on immediately; there is no risk of over-drying or increased shrinkage of the floor covering; the procedure can be carried out as in-depth cleaning during ongoing operations.

2 Regular cleaning

Regular cleaning is vital for the cleanliness of the carpet and plays a key role in determining the intervals at which interim or thorough cleaning is required.

This cleaning is carried out daily using powerful vacuum cleaners or roller brush machines. With the aid of the rotating and height-adjustable brushes, the devices not only vacuum and brush loose dirt from the surface, but also remove dirt particles from the entire depth of the wear layer of the fibrebonded floor covering. Although vacuuming is technically a very simple process, some rules must be followed:



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- The vacuum cleaner must be suited to the textile floor covering, with it being possible to adjust the height of the brushes accordingly where necessary.
- The vacuum cleaner must not be moved over the floor covering too quickly, otherwise the vacuum effect will not be achieved.
- The best method of working is a double pass in a criss-cross pattern over the textile floor covering. The best possible cleaning effect can be obtained in this manner.
- The filters must be changed in good time.

2.1 Stain removal

Stain removal is part of the regular care of fibrebonded floor coverings in homes and of regular cleaning where these floor coverings are used in professional environments. These days, the condition of the textile fibres is such that

stain treatment is successful in almost all cases.

Of course, the fresher any contamination is, the more effectively and easily it can be removed!

If this point is not observed, the substance that creates the stain penetrates deep into the wear layer and can even induce chemical changes in this layer, meaning that removal is no longer possible.

2.2 Work processes for stain treatment

1. Remove solids, liquids and coagulated substances with a spoon. In doing so, always work in towards the centre of the stain.
2. Blot up liquid with a clean, white cotton cloth or paper towel.
3. Remove the stain using a cloth or sponge and cold water, always working in towards the centre of the stain.
Repeat the procedure if necessary.
4. Always blot the surface of the fibrebonded floor covering, do not rub! Repeat the procedure until no more dirt remains on the cloth.
5. Rinse with clean water. Absorb the remaining moisture with a cloth or paper towel.
6. Cover the treated area with a few layers of paper towel, weight them down and allow to dry.
Finally, vacuum the area.

3 Interim cleaning

Depending on the usage and the resulting level of contamination, interim cleaning will be necessary at specific intervals. This type of cleaning is carried out between the thorough cleaning operations that take place at longer intervals.

The task of the interim cleaning is to eliminate adhesive dirt that it has not been possible to remove by vacuuming during daily cleaning.

Here the cleaning is focused on the more heavily contaminated subsections (e.g. walking routes in corridor and entrance areas, etc.). If the interim cleaning is carried out correctly, the cleaning costs can be reduced

and unnecessary disruptions to operations in the building can be avoided. The interim cleaning can be carried out manually or by machine.

The interim cleaning can be carried out either with prefabricated foam or using the pad procedure. Preliminary cleaning with vacuum cleaners must be carried out prior to the interim cleaning.

4 Thorough cleaning (in-depth cleaning)

Above and beyond the daily regular cleaning and the interim cleaning, all textile floor coverings require thorough cleaning at specific intervals, depending on the intensity of the soiling. This becomes necessary when large areas of the fibrebonded floor covering are dirty,

Thorough cleaning achieves the best possible removal of dirt and restoration of the original performance characteristics and appearance.

The intervals at which thorough cleaning must be carried out are largely dependent on correct regular and interim cleaning.

Thorough cleaning should be carried out by a specialist who has machines and tools in line with the latest cleaning technology and who, based on his/her expert knowledge, selects the appropriate cleaning procedures with regard to the level of contamination, carpet condition, installation type and substrate.

The following procedures are suited to thorough cleaning (in-depth cleaning):

- Pad cleaning
- Spray extraction
- Shampooing
- Combination of the last two procedures
- Cleaning with prefabricated foam

It is vital to avoid soaking moisture-sensitive substrate structures, access floors and the fibrebonded surface covering.

Important: Irrespective of which method is used, the vital point is as follows: moisture is added to the textile flooring covering,

it must not be walked on after the wet cleaning, and it must be completely dry before it can be returned to use.

The drying time of the floor covering depends on the climatic conditions at the time of the cleaning and the amount of liquid added.

If the floor covering is walked on while it is damp, it will quickly become dirty again!

4.1 Cleaning using the pad procedure

Following preliminary cleaning of the entire area by vacuuming, the fibrebonded floor covering is sprayed with a "mist"

of spray solution tailored to the system. After a short treatment time, the area is worked over evenly with a disc machine, under which a "fibre pad" is positioned. The passes with this machine should overlap one another.

After a very short time, the fibrebonded floor covering can be walked on again.

4.2 Spray extraction

Following thorough preliminary cleaning with a vacuum, a carpet cleaner machine is used to wet clean the fibrebonded floor covering

with a cleaning solution. During carpet cleaning (spray extraction), the water with cleaning agent is sprayed on and immediately suctioned off again via a nozzle, in one work step.



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Depending on the level of soiling, it is recommended to rinse the floor covering several times with clear water in order

to avoid cleaning agent residue and the resulting adhesive effect which can cause renewed accumulation of dirt.

It is possible to combine this type of cleaning with the shampooing procedure. After spray extraction, the fibrebonded floor covering requires

adequate time with good ventilation to dry. Only after this should the premises that have been cleaned be used again.

As a matter of principle, soaking of the fibrebonded floor covering must be avoided, as otherwise its adhesive bond to the substrate may be negatively affected.

4.3 Shampooing

Shampooing is carried out after vacuuming, using a single or multiple-disc machine with a shampooing brush.

In this cleaning procedure, the fibrebonded floor covering is cleaned by intensive mechanical brushing with a suitable shampoo solution.

In order to achieve the best possible outcome, the shampooing brush should be moved over the covering surface in overlapping circles. The foam generated picks up dirt and must immediately be suctioned off using a high-powered wet vacuum cleaner.

It is recommended to use shampoos that have crystalline dry residues.

This makes it possible to avoid the accumulation of fatty particles on the fibres.

After drying the floor covering, this must be cleaned in all directions using a vacuum cleaner, in order to remove any cleaning agent residue without a trace.

4.4 Combination of both procedures

In order to achieve the greatest possible effectiveness, it is recommended to combine shampooing and spray extraction. Following shampooing, in which the mechanical processing and the chemical effect have loosened and removed the dirt particles, a thorough spray extraction is carried out. In this flushing out process using only clean water, dirt particles and cleaning agent residue are removed. After drying the floor covering and subsequent vacuuming, an optimal surface appearance is achieved.

5 Cleaning instructions for access floor constructions

An access floor construction consists of multiple unconnected individual panels that can be incorporated independently of one another.

This creates joints and edges with significantly greater openings for attack by cleaning water than is the case with conventional floors where material in sheet format is laid out. Consequently, soaking the floor area is generally to be avoided

during cleaning. If water is used for cleaning, it must only be used briefly and in small amounts, and must then be absorbed again immediately.

The adhesive bond and the coating on the reverse of the floor covering must not be negatively affected in any of the cleaning procedures used. Floor panels with cut-outs, installations and/or ventilation plates must be treated with particular care. It is vital to prevent moisture penetration.

All of the procedures listed under Points 1-4.4 can be used for cleaning.

The following points must be taken into consideration when selecting the devices for spray extraction:

- Spray extraction is executed under normal pressure instead of high pressure.

- The use of "lukewarm" cleaning solution must be guaranteed.
- Use of suitable cleaning agents that do not form any adhesive residues or residues that trap dirt.
- After each spray extraction procedure, a pure suction process must be carried out immediately on a sheet-by-sheet basis, in order to avoid long-term moisture penetration.

Note: After the thorough and/or interim cleaning, allow the fibrebonded floor covering to dry sufficiently before using it again.

6 Special instructions

For use on textile floor coverings, office chairs must be equipped with type H casters according to EN 12529, i.e. with hard casters in the prescribed dimensions. This must be taken into account when using office chairs with casters.

Underfloor heating systems must be configured so that, during the cleaning procedure and throughout the drying phase, the fibrebonded floor covering does not change colour or undergo any other change.

6.1 General points

These recommendations are based on our general practical experience and reflect the latest developments in cleaning technology according to our knowledge at the time of publication. However, we accept no liability for completeness, accuracy and applicability in individual cases.

7 INDEX OF MANUFACTURERS

7.1 Cleaning products

The manufacturers mentioned should be regarded as examples. The suitable cleaning products for DLW fibrebonded floor coverings can be requested here. Equivalent products from other manufacturers may also be used.

The product-specific manufacturer's conditions should be taken into account during treatment, and where appropriate you should consult the product manufacturer.

The manufacturers are responsible for the usability and compatibility of their products in each case, and they will be happy to provide information on these points.

Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co.
Cleaning systems
Alfred-Kärcher-Straße 28-40
D- 71364 Winnenden, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 71 95 / 14-0
www.kaercher.com

DREITURM GmbH
Industriegebiet West
D-36396 Steinau a.d. Straße,
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 66 63 / 9 70-0
www.dreiturm.de

Johannes Kiehl KG
Robert-Bosch-Str. 9
D- 85235 Odelzhausen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 81 34 / 93 05-0
www.kiehl-group.com



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ASIX GmbH
Beethovenstraße 26
D- 62526 Erlensee, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 61 83 / 80 20 34
www.asix.de

Dr. Schnell Chemie GmbH
Taunusstraße 19
D- 80807 Munich, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 89 / 35 06 08-0
www.dr-schnell.de

Jeikner Teppichforschung KG
Johannespfad 11
D- 57223 Kreuztal, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 27 32 / 55 33-0

BUZIL-WERK
Wagner GmbH & Co
Fraunhoferstraße 17
D- 87700 Memmingen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 83 31 / 930-731
www.buzil.com

Ecolab GmbH
PO Box 13 04 06
D- 40554 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2 11 / 98 93-0
www.ecolab.com

RZ Chemie GmbH
Industriepark Kottenforst
D-53340 Meckenheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 22 25 / 94 46-50
www.rz-reinigungssysteme.de

CC-Dr. Schutz GmbH
PO Box 20 03 33
D-53133 Bonn, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2 28 / 9 53 52-0
www.cc-dr-schutz.de

Solution Glöckner GmbH
Postfach 150147
D-67026 Ludwigshafen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 6 21 / 53 81 40
www.solution-gloeckner.de

TANA Chemie GmbH
Ingelheimstraße 1 – 3
D- 55120 Mainz, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 61 31 / 9 64-03
www.tana.de

Carpet Cleaner GmbH
Wolfratshauer Straße 150
D- 82049 Pullach, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 89 / 744 16 50

Johnson Diversey Deutschland
GmbH & Co. oHG
Mallastraße 50 – 56
D- 68219 Mannheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 6 21 / 87 57-0
www.diverseylever.com

Wetrok GmbH
Maybachstraße 35
D- 51381 Leverkusen
Tel.: +49 (0) 21 71/ 398-0
www.wetrok.de

7.2 MACHINES AND EQUIPMENT

Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co.
Cleaning systems
Alfred-Kärcher-Straße 28 – 40
D- 71364 Winnenden, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 71 95 / 14-0
www.kaercher.com

Johnson Diversey Deutschland
GmbH & Co. oHG
Mallastraße 50 – 56
D- 68219 Mannheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 6 21 / 87 57-0
www.johnsondiverseylever.com

Columbus REINIGUNGSMASCHINEN
G. Staehle GmbH u. Co. KG
Mercedesstraße 15
D- 70372 Stuttgart, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 7 11 / 9 54 49 50
www.columbus-clean.com

Nilfisk-Advance AG
Siemensstraße 25 / 27
D- 25462 Rellingen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 41 01 / 39 90
www.nilfisk-advance.de



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Ecolab GmbH
PO Box 13 04 06
D- 40554 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2 11 / 98 93-0
www.ecolab.com

Stein & Co. GmbH
Wülfrather Straße 47-49
D- 42553 Velbert, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2053/ 8981
www.Sebo.de

7.3 DIRT-TRAPPING MATS

3M Deutschland GmbH
Carl-Schurz-Straße 1
D- 41453 Neuss, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 21 31 / 14-0
www.3m.com

Kampmann GmbH
Friedrich Ebert Straße 128-130
D- 49811 Lingen (Ems), Germany
Tel. +49 (0)5 91 / 71 08-0
www.kampmann.de

Your contact for questions relating to cleaning at DLW Flooring GmbH, Technical Customer Service, Stuttgarter Straße 75, D- 74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany, can be reached as follows:

Tel.: +49 (0) 71 42 / 71 255
Fax: +49 (0) 71 42 / 71 1 46
E-mail: service_germany@dlwflooring.com
Internet: www.dlw.eu

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