

Cleaning

Surface care



Before you begin

A guide to initial cleaning, everyday care and intensive treatment. Choose the method according to surface and residue, with documented alternatives from several manufacturers.

How to use this guide

Identify surface and residue, then choose a compatible treatment. Alternatives from FILA, Mapei, Kerakoll, Litokol, Faber and Lithofin remain subject to their respective technical data sheets.

CONTENTS

01	Before choosing a product	3
02	The cleaning method	4
03	Cementitious and mineral residues	6
04	Epoxy resin residues	7
05	Routine cleaning	8
06	Stains and intensive cleaning	10
07	Decorations and sensitive finishes	11
08	Organising maintenance	12

01 / CLEANING

Before choosing a product

Three factors guide treatment: exposed surface, type of residue and curing of installation materials.

CHECK	DECISION
Porcelain field tile or decoration	For decorative tiles, follow the dedicated procedure. Do not automatically extend the use of acids or degreasers.
Cement, limescale or salts	Consider a mineral-residue cleaner only on acid-resistant surfaces and grout.
Epoxy grout or resin	Distinguish fresh from hardened residue and use the grout-specific system.
Grease or organic dirt	Start with a neutral cleaner; consider a compatible degreaser if dirt persists.
Unknown substance	Diagnose on a small area. Do not stack trials with different substances.

Protect sensitive metals, natural stone, wood, paint, furnishings and drains. Read the exact product's label, technical data sheet and safety data sheet; provide required ventilation and protection. Do not mix cleaners, particularly acids and chlorine-containing products. Exclude hydrofluoric acid and derivatives aggressive to ceramics.

02 / CLEANING

The cleaning method

Dose, time, mechanical action and liquid recovery work together. Increasing concentration alone does not guarantee better results.

Prepare

Vacuum or collect dust and grit without dragging it. Delimit the area and protect incompatible elements. Measure cleaner with a dedicated dispenser and prepare the exact dilution: interpret the ratio as specified by the manufacturer.

Work and recover

Spread evenly, observe contact time and use the least aggressive effective mechanical action. On textured surfaces, prefer a soft brush suited to the relief. Recover dirty water with a wet vacuum or clean tool; change solution frequently. Evaporation alone leaves residue on the floor.

Rinse and check

Rinse with clean water when required by the data sheet. For acids, concentrated degreasers and resin removal, thorough recovery and rinsing are essential. A daily cleaner's no-rinse claim applies only at the stated dose and conditions.

Check after drying under frontal and raking light. If haze persists, determine whether it is grout, detergent, salts or permanent alteration. Correct the diagnosis before repeating treatment.



Image from the Brera catalogue

DIAGRAM 01

Residue must be removed

Cleaning means loosening and collecting dirt. Letting the liquid evaporate deposits it again.

01

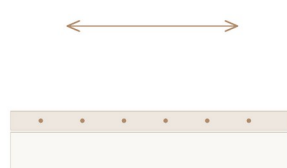
Prepare



Remove grit

02

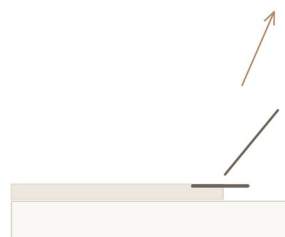
Wash



Specified dose and time

03

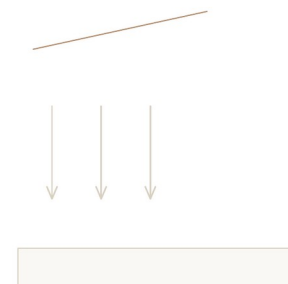
Recover



Remove dirty liquid

04

Check



Rinse and dry

SCHEMATIC SURFACE SECTIONS

Before

Collect grit, protect sensitive elements and measure the dose.

During

Respect contact time and compatible mechanical action, without allowing the product to dry.

After

Recover dirty liquid, rinse where required and check the dry surface.

Schematic sections, not to scale. Adapt the method to the finish and cleaner data sheet.

Cementitious and mineral residues

Initial cleaning removes grout haze and site residues compatible with the chosen cleaner. It does not replace removal of fresh material.

Before acid treatment

Identify the grout and wait until it can withstand cleaning. Do not apply acids to uncured grout, calcareous stone, metals or sensitive finishes. Carry out the specific check for worked or decorated porcelain. Carefully remove large deposits without scoring the surface.

MANUFACTURER	PRODUCT TO ASSESS	FUNCTION
FILA	DETERDEK PRO	Cementitious and mineral residues
Mapei	UltraCare Keranet	Cementitious residues on acid-resistant surfaces
Kerakoll	Delta Plus	Scale and mineral residues
Litokol	X-Cleaner	Concentrated acid cleaner
Faber	CEMENT REMOVER 2.0	Compatible installation residues and scale

A documented example

The Italian DETERDEK PRO data sheet specifies a post-installation dilution of 1:5 to 1:10 in water: one part product plus five or ten parts water. Pre-wet, work on small areas with a compatible tool, collect the solution and rinse. Do not apply to hot material; the stated range is 5–30 °C.

This dose applies to DETERDEK PRO. Do not transfer it to Keranet, Delta Plus, X-Cleaner or CEMENT REMOVER 2.0. Update the site procedure if the product or its data sheet changes.

Epoxy resin residues

Cement cleaner is not the automatic answer to epoxy haze. Timing changes the product and method required.

SITUATION	TREATMENT ROUTE
During grouting	Observe the resin's washing window. Use water, tools and additives expressly specified by the system.
Recent surface haze	Use the cleaner specified for the residue and surface. Work on small areas and recover thoroughly.
Hardened residue	Consider a specific residue remover, including gel for vertical surfaces. Complete a full trial before wider application.
MANUFACTURER	EXAMPLES AND DISTINCTIONS
Mapei	UltraCare Kerapoxy Cleaner for grout cleaning; UltraCare Epoxy Off Gel for hardened residues, according to the data sheet.
Kerakoll	Fuga-Soap for Fugalite haze; Fuga-Shock for persistent residues, according to the data sheet and compatibility.
Litokol	Starlike Care, liquid; Starlike Wall Care for vertical surfaces; Starlike Care Pro for specific residue treatments, according to the data sheet.
FILA	CR10 for epoxy residues on surfaces permitted by the data sheet.

Do not let the cleaner's required contact time become uncontrolled exposure for sealants, paints or decorations. Include grout and edges in the test. Prevent residues accumulating in relief recesses. Recover and rinse as instructed afterwards.

Epoxy cleaners are not automatically suitable for decorative resins, metals or lustres. The word resin in both covering and grout does not imply compatibility between them.

Routine cleaning

Frequency depends on traffic and soiling. Dose depends on the cleaner, not room size.

PRODUCT	DOCUMENTED INSTRUCTION
FILA CLEANER PRO	Routine cleaning. At 1:200, the dose is 25 ml in 5 litres of water; follow the stated conditions for no-rinse use.
Mapei UltraCare MultiCleaner	For routine cleaning, dilute 1:200, equivalent to 50 ml in 10 litres of water. More concentrated dilutions require rinsing.
Litokol X-Cleaner Shine	Current-range routine cleaner. Use the dose in the purchased product's data sheet.
Faber FLOOR CLEANER	For low-absorption surfaces, the sheet specifies one capful in 5 litres. Do not convert capfuls to millilitres without knowing the cap volume.

Adapt the tool

Vacuum grit before washing. Use clean microfibre or other soft tools; on Grip, use a brush suited to the microtexture. In large areas, a compatible scrubber-dryer can improve recovery. Test brushes and pads first; do not assume pad colour universally identifies abrasiveness.

Avoid films

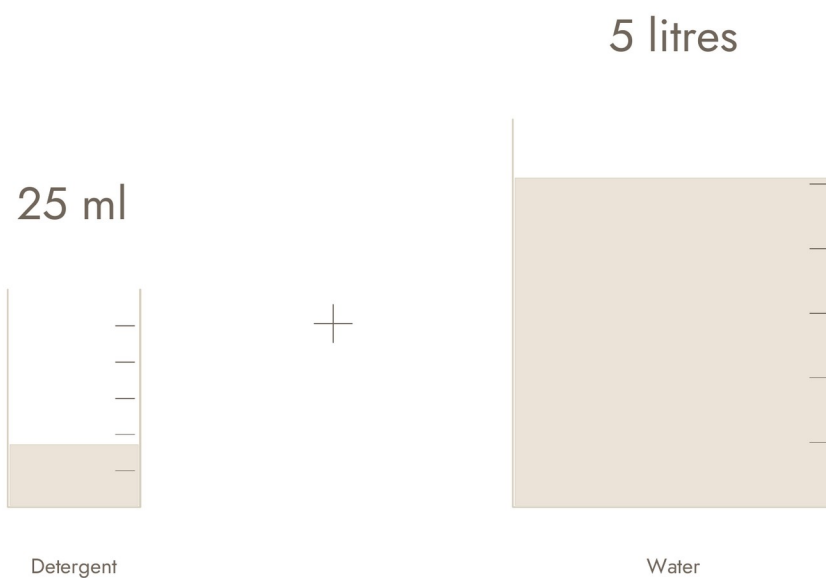
Do not add wax, oily soaps or shine enhancers without a documented need. If footprints or streaks remain, first check overdosing and rinsing. A surface may appear dirty because it holds a detergent film.

Doses here apply only to the named products. The current label and technical data sheet take precedence before use. Specific compatibility is still required for decorations and special finishes.

DIAGRAM 02

Measure the dose

A dispenser prevents routine cleaner from leaving a film on the surface.



FILA CLEANER PRO · ROUTINE DILUTION 1:200

The example

For FILA CLEANER PRO, the routine dilution of 1:200 equals 25 ml in 5 litres of water.

The condition

No-rinse use applies only at the dose and conditions specified by the manufacturer.

The limit

Do not transfer this dose to other products. Always check the current data sheet and finish.

Volumes are stated in the example; containers are not drawn to a volumetric scale.

Stains and intensive cleaning

Act before dirt accumulates, selecting the cleaner family according to the substance and surface.

RESIDUE	INITIAL APPROACH	CAUTION
Grease and food residues	Collect, then use neutral cleaner; compatible degreaser if needed.	Rinse; protect aluminium, paint and decorations.
Limescale and mineral salts	Compatible acid cleaner, applied locally.	Exclude sensitive materials and uncured grout.
Epoxy haze	Residue remover specific to the degree of curing.	No automatic extension to lustres or decorative resins.
Wax or polymer film	Identify the treatment; use compatible wax stripper.	Do not apply a new film over the existing one.
Rust or metal marks	Specific product and local trial.	Do not confuse a scratch with a stain.
Paint, ink, silicone	Identify the material; use the selective cleaner specified by its manufacturer.	No general-purpose solvent or blade on the finish.

Alternatives for greasy dirt

FILA PS87 PRO, Mapei UltraCare HD Cleaner, Litokol X-Cleaner Scrub and Lithofin KF Intensive Cleaner are options to assess for degreasing or film removal under their respective data sheets. They do not share a common dose. Check the current sheet for the purchased product before use.

The PS87 PRO sheet distinguishes diluted degreasing from other uses: do not apply a local spot-removal method to the entire floor. Always work on a test area, collect the dirt and rinse as instructed.

Decorations and sensitive finishes

Cleaning must suit the exposed relief, applied material or surface treatment as well as the body.

Dedicated procedure

Gently dust with a soft cloth. If washable, use a little water and an expressly compatible neutral cleaner, without standing liquid. Remove residue and dry without abrasion. For deposits or stains, request the procedure for the code and finish before using acids, strong alkalis or solvents.

When to stop

Stop if colour transfers to the cloth, sheen changes, dulling, swelling or relief alteration occurs. Photograph after drying and record the product name, actual dose and contact time.

Do not use scouring pads, abrasive powders, melamine sponges, steam or high-pressure cleaners without specific compatibility instructions. Avoid tape on decorated faces and do not try to polish out damage with abrasive tools.

Honed and Opus also require care with grit and substances that alter friction. Successful cleaning does not confer a new slip-resistance performance or DCOF compliance.



Image from the Brera catalogue

Organising maintenance

A brief, repeatable procedure is more useful than a list of products unrelated to the actual floor.

PROPERTY RECORD

INFORMATION TO KEEP

Surface	Series, code, finish, batch and environment.
Initial cleaning	Date, grout, cleaner, dose, time, tool and dry-surface photographs.
Routine cleaning	Exact product, dose, frequency, tool and rinsing requirements.
Intensive treatments	Stain, treatment tested, result and affected areas.
Checks	Condition of grout, sealants and drains, and presence of films.

When to review the method

Update the procedure when the finish, cleaner, type of dirt or machine changes. A new label or trade name does not guarantee an equivalent formulation. Repeat testing when conditions are not comparable.

Keep operating instructions

Keep technical and safety data sheets for the products actually used, together with surface instructions. Site worksheets record the trial, initial cleaning and handover. Update the procedure when any system component changes.

Recommendation: define one routine procedure for each surface and retain alternatives for identified problems. Avoid improvised substitutions between cleaner families.