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CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Reconstructed marble are resistant, easy to upkeep, and they retain their original aspect for a long time, even in conditions of great load. The tile in reconstructed marble is crossed inside structure by very fine invisible capillaries that permit the variation of humidity. During the laying and putting of the joints a film of cement paste forms on the surface of the tile. At the same time a thin layer of calcium carbonate (efflorescence) appears on the excess water of the laying grout and on the residual humidity of the laying water. The process that takes place on the laid flooring has modified the image of the chosen sample tile, and the original aspect of the tile will be re-established only by correct initial basic maintenance.

Avoid contact with products such as vinegar, wine, lemon juice or sanitary cleaners (pH < 7). They are acid and can damage the surfaces. Also highly alkaline (pH > 10) and solvents or abrasive can damage the surfaces.

Basic cleaning

When the large building works, included the plastering of the inner walls, have been done, the first basic cleaning is the initial work to be done for the maintenance.

Through basic cleaning the dirt of the building site gets eliminated, as well as the residuals of cement paste and of calcium carbonate. After having swept the dry flooring and eventually removed the toughest dirt, the flooring needs to be brushed in depth after a good wash with brushes and neutral detergents.

Treatment

Once dry, the well cleaned covering has a lovely shining look.

There are many possibilities for the maintenance treatment, the most traditional method consists in washing with liquid soap diluted with water. After the initial maintenance flooring treated in this way needs two to three months before reaching the final colour. Through the use of a neutral liquid soap given when the flooring is dry and clean, it is possible to obtain both the cleaning and maintenance effect.

The second method is the treatment with wax (to be applied after about three months from the laying). In this case diluted waxes are laid on the floor and right from the initial maintenance treatment the surface appears shiny. After the first cleaning it is recommended to give a protective treatment with an impregnator sealer, to increase the stain resistance and to make the cleaning easy. Before grouting and to give the impregnator sealer, the terrazzo must be dry. It is necessary to let dry the material and mortar moisture. We advise a waiting time for the completely dry of ca. 4 till 6 weeks. These waiting times are approximatively, and may vary depending on weathering and circumstances of project. Before to seal the surfaces, it is recommended another cleaning with a dry time of ca. 24 hours, to remove all dirt residue.

Attention: it is very important to lay untreated material. An impregnation of the material before the lay is not recommended, because the moisture of terrazzo and the of mortar can not dry uniformly. After the lay, the foreign moisture can dry only through the open joints. The possible consequences of a not uniform drying of moisture can be: difference of colour and deformation with cracking. In addition, with an impregnation treatment before the lay, the joints remain untreated, and it is therefore necessary a further treatment. For a regular cleaning we advise to use only hot water with a neutral pH detergent, without additives.

Ordinary maintenance

Every cleaning consists of cleaning plus maintaining. With the cleaning all the dirt ought to be removed, while with the maintenance a new brilliant film is applied.

It is important not to do the cleaning with acid detergents knowing the properties of the covering, but with slightly greasy alkaline ones. Acid detergents cause an undesirable surface roughness that increases the adhesion of dirt, causing damages.

Periodic maintenance

One important thing is to keep on using the same products used for the basic maintenance. If liquid soaps are used, the flooring will consequently need to be treated with liquid soaps. If waxes are used, these substances will also be used for the cleaning and maintenance.

Use of machines

Obviously for surfaces specific machines for the cleaning and maintenance are used. These machines usually throw water with the above mentioned additives on brushes.

It is necessary to use natural brushes, or nylon ones, in the proper way.

Natural brushes give a better shiny effect. In case of honed floorings it is better to avoid brushes that are too hard or particularly treated ones because of the high abrasive effect, otherwise damages can be caused to the flooring in reconstructed marble.