**Cleaning and Maintenance Recommendations**

**Ceramic Tiles and Mosaics**

**Initial Cleaning and Maintenance**

The initial clean of the tiles surface is the most important step to ensure the ease of cleaning for future maintenance. It requires the complete removal of grout from the surface of the tiles before they cure or dry. The clean must commence immediately after installation and grout application.

Using a dry cloth or sponge, to remove the excess grout and residue from the surface of the tiles. Tiles can be cleaned successfully by sponging down the newly installed surface with hot water and a suitable neutral detergent cleaner. This must be directly followed by thoroughly rinsing and the removal of rinse water then dry with a cloth.

If grout residue remains, further grout cleaning should be carried out by following the grout manufacturer’s instructions. It is important to be certain that all traces of grout have been removed; failure to do so will cause grout to stain permanently or difficult to remove.

Some grout manufacturers distribute products recommended for removal of grout from the surface of the tile. Prior to grouting any area, complete a grout test patch, this will determine possible contamination of the grout, pigmentation and/or the ease of excess grout removal. It is important to do so when using different colour tiles to grout, light coloured tiles or smooth surfaces such as polished, smooth or matt.

**For more intensive cleaning:**  Floor scrubbers or floor buffing machines equipped with a nylon pad or brush are recommended. A wet vacuum should be used to pick up suspended grout and completely remove residue and construction dirt. If cleaning is done by a machine, it is important to select the correct equipment (brush, disc or cylindrical type) for the particular surface finish, location of installation and frequency of cleaning. We recommend contacting the specific equipment supplier for advice. Acid washing is not recommended and is not usually necessary for cleaning a new installation if the cleaning is done in a timely manner. Once the initial cleaning has been thoroughly completed, a daily cleaning schedule can be followed for continuous maintenance.

**Daily Maintenance**

General maintenance and cleaning of ceramic floor tiles and floor mosaics will vary depending on the surface texture and build-up of dirt/staining. General cleaning should be performed by sweeping or vacuuming to remove loose dirt or other surface contaminates then, mop with warm water and a mild detergent neutral pH cleaner. Depending on the build-up of dirt, a more intensive cleaning process may be required. This would include the use of dedicated Tile and Grout Cleaner followed by thoroughly rinsing the tile surface area.

To successfully maintain porcelain tiles, some important steps need to be followed:

1. All spills must be cleaned as quickly as possible.
2. Use a neutral pH cleaner and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
3. Allow enough time for the detergent solution to act on the dirty area.
4. Scrub with a nylon pad or bristle brush.
5. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove all dirt and clean solution. It is very important that it is done thoroughly followed by using a wet vacuum or dry mop/cloth.
6. The use of a “Magic Sponge”, microfiber sponge can assist in removing stubborn spots.

Please note that not all tile finishes require the same cleaning method and for the best results, using different techniques and cleaning solutions is recommended. Final cleaning techniques should be personalized to suit the specific installation requirements.