

# Maintenance

## Deep cleaning of stubborn marks

Sometimes foreign matter may cause surface stains which mark the tile, and which normal water/detergent cleaning will not remove.

If stains have occurred the following treatment will normally remove or minimise them, though the treatment should be used only on the offending mark. It is advisable to experiment on a small area first, particularly if the nature of the stain is in doubt. Allow at least 5 to 15 minutes to elapse, then repeat the scrubbing operation, but with clean water only.

### Staining agent and treatment

Paint	Paint remover
Oil, fat or grease	Detergent or degreasers
Organic stains	Bleach, one-off treatment with washing soda
Rust	Masonry cleaner
Rubber (carbon)	Abrasive powder or liquid
Mould growth	Household bleach
Tea or coffee	Household bleach

## Wet areas

Wet barefoot areas (e.g. swimming pools, showers, changing rooms, etc.) may attract a build-up of body fats, oils, soap residues and, in humid conditions, organic growth (algae). To remove and prevent these, a more acidic cleaning agent, used regularly, is required. If build-up has been allowed to occur, a preliminary 'deep clean' should be carried out, followed by regular use of a mildly acidic cleaning agent solution. Do not use wirewool.

## Cleaning and maintenance of glazed floor tiles

Routine cleaning of glazed ceramic floor tiles presents few problems.

Remove any loose dirt or grit from the tile surface by sweeping with a dry brush followed by mopping with warm water to which a neutral, low sulphate detergent has been added. This should be followed by rinsing thoroughly with clean water.

Abrasive powders which may scratch the glaze must not be used.

## Cleaning and maintenance of glazed wall tiles

Some glazed wall tiles are supplied having a thin wax coating to the back of the tile in order to prevent scratching of the glazed surface during packaging and transit. The wax may often be transferred to the tile face and is best removed with warm water and a non-metallic scouring pad.

The routine cleaning of glazed ceramic wall tiles should be carried out after the removal of any loose dirt or grit by wiping off with a dry cloth, followed by washing with warm water to which a neutral, low sulphate detergent has been added. After a further rinse with clean water to ensure thorough removal of the detergent solution the installation should be given a final wipe down and polish with a clean, dry, soft cloth.

Abrasive powders which may scratch the glaze must not be used.

