

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF

NEOLITH

SURFACES

First cleaning

This is the cleaning at the end of the refurbishment/remodeling work: It is the most important step, as it influences the results of the subsequent use of the product. Its goal is to remove all traces of foreign materials and residue from the surface of the slabs.

If you used cement based adhesive for the placement, The Size recommends the following operations, once the adhesive has dried:

- **Remove dirt** with a vacuum cleaner;
- **Wet the floor** with clean water in order to soak and protect the joints against the corrosive action of the detergent;
- Use **an appropriate acid detergent** (descaling agents or cement remover) to clean. The detergent has to be diluted in water and the user instructions must be followed while addressing the precautions for safe use (e.g. gloves, adequate ventilation, ...);
- **Absorb the solution** with a clean cloth or a suitable vacuum cleaner;
- Thoroughly **rinse the entire surface with clean, warm water** to neutralize the action of the detergent
- **Remove any buildup** by scraping it off;
- If necessary, **clean the surface again** using a diluted neutral or alkaline detergent, then rinse with clean warm water and dry the surface.

If an **epoxy sealant** has been used for the placement, any remaining residue on the slab's surface should be **removed before the grout has hardened completely** and carefully follow the instructions supplied by the manufacturer.

Warning

- Some of the components of the adhesives are sensitive to acids. For this reason, it is recommended to ask the manufacturer for guidance on the **most suitable detergent** for cleaning.
- In cases of particularly difficult stains, perform **a localized cleaning** following the indications given in the table type detergent according to the type of dirt, which is at the end of this document. With particularly difficult stains, clean the area by following the instructions in the table *Detergents types according to type of dirt*, included at the end of this chapter.

Everyday cleaning

For cleaning **dirt in general**, it is advisable to vacuum or sweep the surface and then wipe with a cleaning solution using a detergent in a concentration recommended by the manufacturer. (Avoid products containing hydrofluoric acid and its derivatives)

It not advisable to use waxes, oily soaps, impregnating agents or other treatments (hydro-oil repellent) on the product, because its application is not necessary at all. Some of the detergents currently on the market contain waxes or polishing additives that, after several washes, **can leave an oily film** on the surface of Neolith.

Special maintenance

This is an **intense and thorough cleaning** that may be required **annually or semiannually**. It is done with the same methods as for the everyday cleaning, but using a **medium concentration of alkaline detergents**.

Detergents types according to type of dirt

Some products **may not be removed by normal cleaning operations** and specific procedures must be used, depending on their nature. The time the substance remains on the surface is very important, so it is advisable **to clean the area as soon as possible**, this will prevent it from drying out and being cleaned more easily.

Types of Stains	Tipos de detergentes
Grease	Alkaline / Solvent
Oil	Solvent
Ink	Oxidant / Solvent
Rust	Acid
Lime	Acid
Cement	Acid
Wine	Alkaline / Acid
Coffee	Alkaline / Solvent
Rubber	Solvent
Plaster	Acid
Epoxi glues	Solvent
Candle wax	Solvent
Iodine	Oxidant
Blood	Oxidant
Ice cream	Alkaline
Resins	Solvent
Fruit juice	Oxidant
permanent marker	Solvent
Aluminum scratches	Acid

Acid: Acidic cleaning products: descalers, cement removers...

Alkaline: Basic cleaning products: ammonia, degreasers...

Solvent: Universal solvent, thinner, turpentine, acetone, alcohol...

Oxidant: Diluted hydrogen peroxide or bleach ...

Warning

- Always follow the manufactures' recommended dosage and time, verified previously on unplaced material or in hidden places
- If using acid-based detergent, prior to starting cleanup operations it is **recommended to soak the joints with water**, to protect them from the corrosive action of the detergent.
- In environments with special requirements (industrial kitchens, hospitals, businesses, etc.) or types of stains, particularly difficult to remove (external floors, offices, etc..), it is good practice to perform the cleaning operations listed above mechanically and with specialized and cleaning products.