

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DLW VINYL COMPOSITION TILE

Using a floor covering that is not properly maintained leads to heavier wear and to potential discolouration. Dirt, particularly with a granular structure, reinforces the abrasive effect on the surface of the floor covering. Floor coverings should therefore be cleaned and maintained for reasons of hygiene and to maintain their value. Proper maintenance requires the application of a coating with pore-filling, dirt-repellent material, which can be either a silk-matte glaze or a high-gloss finish (see Explanations in ATV DIN 18 365 for paragraph 3.1.4).

In the cleaning of DLW Vinyl Composition TILE (DLW Flex Tiles) in large-scale or heavily soiled areas, we differentiate among the following work processes:

- Handover / initial cleaning
- Treatment
- Routine maintenance with wet-mopping, damp-mopping or cleaners
- In-depth cleaning

1 Handover / initial cleaning

Before the floor covering is handed over to its user, it undergoes a handover cleaning / initial cleaning. Depending on the level of dirt penetration in the floor covering, the following are used:

a) neutral or alcohol-based cleaning agents or **b)** in-depth cleaning agents. Cleaning work may only begin once the adhesive has hardened.

In cases of minor soiling, we recommend wet cleaning with a neutral or alcohol-based cleaning agent in the wash water.

In cases of heavy soiling that cannot be eliminated using the normal PVC-compatible cleaning agents, an in-depth cleaning agent is required, to be diluted with water, applied, and allowed to take effect for a few minutes. Gentle mechanical cleaning with a single-disc machine that has a PVC-compatible cleaning pad fitted underneath it will loosen the dirt so it can be removed with a mop or water suction device. The entire floor covering surface must then be rinsed with clean water and allowed to dry completely.

2 Treatment

After the handover / initial cleaning is performed, the floor covering is treated. Treatment reduces the effects of mechanical wear and discolouration processes on the floor covering surface and facilitates routine maintenance.

2.1 Areas with low to normal traffic

On surfaces with low to normal traffic or in places where no high shine is required, it is appropriate to use a cleaning product of the variety mixed into wash water. In order to build up a film coating, it is recommended that a concentration of two to three times the normal level of this product should be used in the wash water in the initial period. With this concentration, the residual cleaning film must be polished up.

2.2 High-traffic areas

Surfaces subject to high traffic must be treated with tread-proof and waterproof self-shining emulsions or polymer dispersions. Matte finish care products are preferable here for reasons of visual appearance. After drying, the care product leaves a thin coating on the floor covering, which serves as the basis for routine maintenance. For nearly single-colour DLW Flex Tiles, it is recommended to treat the floor covering directly after it is laid, so that it is sufficiently protected from soiling caused by the remaining construction work.

2.3 Surface disinfection

In areas that are regularly disinfected, the DLW Flex Tiles must be treated with a polymer dispersion that is resistant to surface disinfectants.

3 Routine maintenance

Routine maintenance is performed as appropriate to the degree and type of soiling present, using the cleaning and care products suited to each treatment, and according to the processes described below.

3.1 Damp-mopping

Light soiling with dirt that is loose or adheres lightly can be removed using damp-mopping. Here the surface of the floor covering is completely moistened with the mopping water (add cleaning product to water according to manufacturer's instructions) without leaving a layer of water on the floor covering. After the water has dried off, a light protective film is left on the floor covering surface.

3.2 Wet-mopping

In cases of heavy soiling, DLW Flex Tiles should be wet-mopped with water to which a soap- or wax-based cleaning agent has been added in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. After this has taken effect, even stubborn dirt will have been detached and can be removed with the mop rinsed in the wash water solution and wrung out. After the water has dried off, a fine protective coating will remain on the floor covering surface. This method does not require any machines, just a double bucket on wheels with a wringer and mop. In areas subjected to regular wet disinfection, it is recommended to add suitable disinfectants to the water.

3.3 Cleaners

Cleaners are understood to refer to the (local) intensive treatment of stubborn stains or marks from walking after mopping. Combined cleaning/care products (cleaners) are sprayed onto such soiled areas. The treatment of such soiling is best performed with disc machines that have cleaning pads fitted underneath. It is often the case that very old dirt streaks can only be removed through in-depth cleaning.

3.4 Mechanical cleaning and maintenance

In large-area properties, it is possible to use automatic cleaning equipment that performs scrubbing and suction in a single work cycle. This process corresponds to wet cleaning. A suitable cleaning agent is added to the water according to the instructions of the cleaning agent manufacturer. In order to build up a protective film, the suction of automatic equipment must be adjusted as according to the instructions of the equipment manufacturer.

4 In-depth cleaning

Depending on the level of use, in-depth cleaning is only necessary at lengthy intervals or in the case of very stubborn dirt or build-up caused by care products. In-depth cleaners are diluted with water before application as according to the manufacturer's instructions. After the product has been left to work for a few minutes, the dirt can be removed by gentle mechanical cleaning (cleaning pad). Treatment is performed mechanically with single or multiple disc machines equipped with cleaning pads. After in-depth cleaning, the floor covering is treated again.

For in-depth cleaning, the in-depth cleaning agents recommended by the care product manufacturer should be used. It is recommended to use care and cleaning products that come from a single manufacturer.

5 Additional measures for properties

5.1 Proper installation of dirt trap zones

Gratings in front of the entrance door must extend over the entire door width so they cannot be circumvented at the side. The grating should be the length of two or three strides, i.e. approx. 150 cm. "Open" or moveable gratings should be used where possible. The use of dirt trap / control zones reduces cleaning costs, considerably improving the appearance and life of the floor covering.

5.2 Use of runners and mats

Textile runners and mats can be used to pick up dirt in the entrance area. They protect the floor covering from fine particles of dirt, dust and moisture and are easy to clean.

6 Special notes

6.1 Discolouration

With prolonged contact, rubber may leave indelible discolouration on all resilient floor coverings. Examples of possible causes are: car tyres, covering materials, castors or feet on washing machines, refrigerators, prams, etc. This discolouration will not appear immediately, but as a consequence of the migration of substances and subsequent exposure to light. To avoid such discolouration, use castors made of polyurethane. If this is not possible, we recommend the use of underlay cups.

Hair dyes and disinfectants with a strong discolouration effect may also damage the surface of coverings irreparably unless wiped off immediately after contact.

6.2 Invitation to tender texts

You can obtain sample texts on handover cleaning and treatment from the DLW Customer Support Service at the following telephone number: +49 (0) 71 42 / 71 – 3 40.

6.3 Office chairs / Furniture

Office chairs with castors must be equipped for use on resilient floor coverings with Type W castors according to EN 12529, i.e. with soft castors or – depending on the furniture – soft underlays, such as

felt gliders or Floor Care gliders (school furniture) from VS Vereinigte Spezialmöbelfabriken GmbH & Co., Tauberbischofsheim, Germany. In order to prevent flooring covering damage, especially in schools or other properties, it is also essential to ensure that chairs and other furniture are placed on surfaces that are smooth and without sharp edges. This should be taken into account when procuring and using new chairs with castors, as well as other chairs and furniture.

6.4 Adhesive tapes

If adhesive tapes are used on the floor covering, please check compatibility with the relevant manufacturers.

6.5 General

These recommendations are based on our general practical experience and correspond to the state-of-the-art cleaning methods known to us at the time of publication. In individual cases, however, no liability will be accepted for their completeness, correctness and applicability.

7 List of manufacturers

7.1 Cleaning and care products

The manufacturers mentioned are by way of example. Here you can ask for the appropriate cleaning and care products for DLW Flex Tiles. Equivalent products from other manufacturers can also be used. Observe the manufacturer's product-specific instructions for use and consult the manufacturer of the product if necessary. Information about the usability and compatibility of products is the responsibility of the respective manufacturer, who will be pleased to provide further details.

Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co.
Cleaning systems
Alfred-Kärcher-Straße 28-40
D- 71364 Winnenden,
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 71 95 / 14-0
www.kaercher.com

Ecolab GmbH
P.O Box 13 04 06
D -40554 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2 11 / 98 93-0
www.ecolab.com

Tana Chemie GmbH
Ingelheimstraße 1 – 3
D- 55120 Mainz, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 61 31 / 9 64-03
www.tana.de

BUZIL-WERK
Wagner GmbH & Co
Fraunhoferstraße 17
D- 87700 Memmingen,
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 83 31 / 930-731
www.buzil.com

Johannes Kiehl KG
Robert-Bosch-Straße 9
D- 85235 Odelzhausen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 81 34 / 93 05-0
www.kiehl-group.com

Wetrok GmbH
Maybachstraße 35
D- 51381 Leverkusen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 21 71 / 398-0
www.wetrok.de

CC-Dr. Schutz GmbH
Holbeisstraße 17
D- 53175 Bonn, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2 28 / 9 53 52-0
www.cc-dr-schutz.de

Johnson Diversey Germany
GmbH & Co. oHG
Mallaustraße 50 - 56
D- 68219 Mannheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 6 21 / 87 57-0

DREITURM GmbH
Industriegebiet West
D-36396 Steinau a.d. Straße,
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 66 63 / 9 70-0
www.dreiturm.de

LOBA GmbH & Co. KG
Leonberger Straße 56 – 62
D- 71254 Ditzingen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 71 56 / 3 57-0

Dr.Schnell Chemie GmbH
Taunusstraße 19
D-80807 Munich, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 89 / 35 06 08-0
www.dr-schnell.de

RZ Chemie GmbH
Industriepark Kottenforst
D- 53340 Meckenheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 22 25 / 94 46-0
www.rz-reinigungssysteme.de

A list of cleaning and care products recommended by the respective manufacturers is also available on request from the Technical Support Service of Armstrong DLW GmbH at tel. no.: +49 (0) 71 42 / 71 340.

7.2 Machines and equipment

Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co.
Cleaning systems
Alfred-Kärcher-Straße 28 – 40
D- 71364 Winnenden, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 71 95 / 14-0
www.kaercher.com

Johnson Diversey Germany
GmbH & Co. oHG
Mallaustraße 50 - 56
D- 68219 Mannheim, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 6 21 / 87 57-0
www.johnsondiversey.com

Columbus CLEANING MACHINES
G. Staehle GmbH u. Co. KG
Mercedesstraße 15
D- 70372 Stuttgart, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 7 11 / 9 54 49 50
www.columbus-clean.com

Nilfisk-Advance AG
Siemensstraße 25 / 27
D- 25462 Rellingen, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 4101 / 39 90
www.nilfisk-advance.de

Ecolab GmbH
P.O. Box 13 04 06
D - 40554 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2 11 / 98 93-0
www.ecolab.com

7.3 Cleaning discs and dirt trap mats

Kampmann GmbH
Friedrich-Ebert Straße 128-130
D- 49811 Lingen (Ems), Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 5 91 / 71 08-0
www.kampmann.de

3M Deutschland GmbH
Carl-Schurz-Straße 1
D-41453 Neuss, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 21 31 / 14 -0
www.3m.com

Your contact for queries about cleaning at Armstrong DLW GmbH, Stuttgarter Straße 75, D-74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen:

Telephone: +49 (0) 71 42 / 71 3 40
Fax: +49 (0) 71 42 / 71 1 46
e-mail: service_germany@armstrong.com
Website: www.armstrong.eu

Earlier issue of this document are hereby superseded