

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS

Installation

The success of a good ceramic floor covering does not only depend from good quality of ceramic tiles. In fact, ceramic tiles are only the upper part of a multi-layer system that includes substrate, bonding and grouting materials, expansion joints etc.

For this reason the installation is as much important as the tiles themselves.

The study of the floor covering should start at the very beginning according to the type of building, expected wear of the floor, expected static and dynamic weights the floor will have to stand etc.

SANDS porcelain tiles can be installed like any ceramic tile and it is therefore possible to use either the traditional cement mortar or thinset system.

Prior to commence any installations, we recommend to carefully check that gres porcelain tiles are available with necessary quantity and that shade and caliber of tiles do not differ.

It is then necessary to follow the normal practice that includes preparation of substrate and of adhesives, installation of expansion joints, respect of curing time etc.

In case of large areas, it is necessary to foresee at regular distance the installation of expansion joints to absorb floor movements that would generate tiles cracks.

In smaller areas it is sufficient to leave a small gap close to the walls and the installation of bullnoses and /or coved skirtings will then cover this gap and complete the aesthetic of tiling work.

It is important to avoid walking on the floor for some days time to allow proper curing of the multi-layer system.

When using the cement mortar system without curing additives it is necessary to wait even for few weeks before stressing the floor with weights.

SANDS porcelain tiles can be cut or drilled by using same machinery generally used for natural stones or other porcelain tiles.

Do not use any epoxy-grout material.

Maintenance and Cleaning

SANDS floor or wall cover solutions, both in the natural and lappato versions, are synonym of beauty and easy maintenance.

The maintenance does not require any specific approach apart from very simple cleaning operations.

First cleaning natural surface

It is usually performed only once before using the floor and must be carried out after some time (depending on the prescription cleaning product used) after first laying and before using the floor.

The purpose is to remove every trace of concrete residues left by the joint filling.

In this phase the floor must be washed with suitable and dedicated products such as Deterdek (FILA) , Keranet (MAPEI) or similar, diluted with prescribed percentage in water.

To prevent the acid-based detergent used for first cleaning from attacking the cement-based joint filling, it is suggested to wet the floor before applying the product so that the joints are soaked and protected from the corrosive effect of the acid component.

After cleaning the floor, rinse the floor with plenty of water and collect residual one.

Ordinary cleaning natural surface.

For everyday cleaning , it is enough to wash the floor with water and detergents suitable for ceramic surfaces.

The surface of SANDS does not require the use of wax and / or similar products, which, conversely, should never be used.

With regards to the Resistance to Stains can be referred to the given tests by Modena Centro Prove laboratory, made on purpose.

In the presence, of stubborn or persistent stains difficult to remove with ordinary products, these can be cleaned by using stronger and more concentrated products that can remove any stains and give back the tiles their original look.

To this regard it should be pointed out that porcelain is resistant to any chemicals with the exception of hydrofluoric acid, very aggressive agent for ceramic products that should never be used.

First cleaning lappato surface

It is usually performed only once before using the floor and must be carried out immediately after first laying and before using the floor.

The purpose is to remove every trace of concrete residues left by the joint filling.

In this phase the floor must be washed with suitable and dedicated neutral ph products such as Fila Cleaner (FILA) or Floor Cleaner (FABER) or similar.

After cleaning the floor, rinse the floor with plenty of water and collect residual one.

Ordinary cleaning lappato surface. For everyday cleaning , it is enough to wash the floor with water and ph neutral detergents suitable for lappato ceramic surfaces.

The surface of SANDS does not require the use of wax and / or similar products, which, conversely, should never be used.

With regards to the Resistance to Stains can be referred to the given tests by Modena Centro Prove laboratory, made on purpose.

In the presence, of stubborn or persistent stains difficult to remove, these can be cleaned by using stronger and more concentrated products, taking into consideration that any immoderate use of an acid detergent cleaning product could reduce the shine effect of the lappato finish.

To this regard it should be pointed out that lappato porcelain is resistant to any chemicals with the exception of hydrofluoric acid, hydrochloric acid and potassium hydroxide, very aggressive agents for lappato ceramic products that should never be used.

It is well known that over time glossy surfaces tend to wear and take a matt look.

In order to preserve the shine of the floor, it is recommended to protect the entrance area of the floored room, especially if it is directly connected with outdoor areas.

The use of doormats that retains as much as possible dust or other abrasive substances and keeps them away from the floor surface is suggested.

A slight reduction of the brightness consequently to the first wash of the floor is to be considered normal, as due to the removal of the abrasive residues employed in the processing of the surface.