



TECHNICAL BULLETIN #132 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF MERKRETE CEMENTITIOUS GROUT

Cementitious grout is porous and will absorb liquids and other items causing a stain. To help prevent stains and make cleaning easier, it is recommended to seal the grout. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for sealing.

DAILY CLEANING

Daily cleaning of grout should use a neutral, pH-balance cleaner, not a cleaner that contains acids (e.g. vinegar) or alkaline chemicals (e.g. ammonia). One of the best everyday cleaners is household tap water. To get the proper cleaning, agitate the tile and grout with a non-marring brush or mop. Try not to leave dirty water on the floor or the dirt will redeposit on the tile and/or grout.

Cleaners can be used on the grout; caution should be taken to ensure that strong acids (vinegar, lemon juice, muriatic acid, etc.) and strong bases (bleach, ammonia, etc) are not used directly on the floor. These chemicals could cause permanent damage to the grout and tile. Always rinse the floor with clean potable water to remove any chemical/cleaners from the floor.

Do Not leave standing water on the grout or tile.

The best practice is to use a shop vac or some type of vacuum to lift the water off the floor. This will lift the dirt and any remaining cleaner off the floor. Always rinse the floor with clean potable water after cleaning, following the same technique.

STEAM CLEANING

There are many different types of steam cleaners on the market. They can be used on the grouted floor with little to no damage. Ensure the steam cleaner is recommended by the manufacture of the steam cleaner to be used on cement grout. Do NOT leave the steam cleaner in one position for long periods of time or the heat and pressure from the cleaner may cause undesirable results.

CAUTION

It is not recommend to use acids (vinegar, lemon or citrus juice, etc) or alkaline (ammonia, bleach, etc) directly on

the floor. This could cause damage and unwanted results.

NOTE

Always test an inconspicuous area with your cleaning method and cleaning solutions to ensure desired results.

Visit our website at www.merkrete.com or call the Technical Department at 1-(800) 226-2424 for additional information.