

Cleaning recommendations for VIASOL floor coatings

VIASOL floor coatings as well as any other floor covering should be carefully cleaned and maintained to preserve the original appearance for a long time. However, the flooring is the most exposed area in a building. The floor must not only meet the standards of hygiene and cleanliness, even in the industrial use floorings take over more and more representative duties.

Therefore, not only the cleaning and maintenance of the flooring is important, but the protection is crucial. There are recommendations from various cleaning and maintenance product manufacturers available.

1. Prevention - Avoid dirt

By installing properly sized entrance mat systems and cleaning zones the input of dirt and small stones in the building will be reduced and damages on the floor will be avoided. Other protective measures using protective covers on chair and table legs and the use of correct castors (recommended type W according to EN 12529) can help to prevent damages and scratches at the floor surface. During the construction phase before the building is handed over to the user/owner, the new flooring should be protected with suitable coverings and protective films from wear and damages.

2. Cleaning effort

The required cleaning effort and the frequency depend on several factors.

2.1 Usage and load:

There are low frequented areas, such as private homes or heavily frequented areas such as shops or lobbies in public buildings. Other differences are e. g. production areas with dusty and dirty environments or clean rooms with appropriate high effective dirt barriers. Here, the user's needs on cleanliness and hygiene requirements differ already.

2.2 Appearance:

Very bright and also very dark floorings may require more cleaning and maintenance effort, especially if the floors are made "uni"-one colour only. Also the gloss has a significant effect on the maintenance effort, e. g. a very smooth surface with mat finish has a microscopically fine-rough and therefore larger surface, thus more dirt can adhere. However, on shiny surfaces dirt particles emphasize visually, this can give the impression that the flooring is "susceptible to dirt".

2.3 Surface structure:

In general, homogeneous and smooth surfaces are easier to clean and with less effort than finely rough and structured surfaces. The work safety requirements for slip resistance are contrary to the requirements of a simple and economical cleaning of the floor. In these cases an individual balancing of this conflict must take place in the planning phase. The working safety must be ensured, but as a part of an economical cleaning and maintenance effort.

2.4 Equipment and cleaning agents:

Due to the large number of suppliers of cleaning and hygiene products as well as the different demands in business and industry, it is not possible to create a universal cleaning and care instructions to keep the floor maintained; in general the following cleaning steps are recommended:

A Initial treatment (protective layer)

To protect floorings an initial treatment is recommended. It is a protective layer immediately applied before the actual use of the area, directly after the completion of the flooring and after the first end cleaning or basic cleaning. These care products protect the flooring from scratches and other damages and facilitate maintenance and cleaning in between. Thus, the attractive appearance is obtained and applied an effective protection depending on the usage. For this purpose usually satin to semi-gloss initial treatment products are available. For dissipative flooring systems special initial treatment and cleaning products must be used to keep up the functionality (e.g. ESD areas) of these flooring systems.

B Routine cleaning

Routine cleaning is done, depending on dirt entry, daily to weekly and should be tailored to the requirements of the specific use. Special attention should be paid on the removal of hard and abrasive contaminants such as sand, gravel or metal shavings. The removal of loose contaminants such as dust is made by wet-cleaning or disposable dusters.

Depending on requirements, the routine- or interim-cleaning can be performed by periodically "scrubbing" with machines performed for gentle removal of adhering dirt. Smaller areas can be cleaned with a smaller machine and then remove the dirty water by vacuum-cleaning. It is important to ensure that the correct "cleaning pads" are used. Please avoid cleaning with abrasive pads or only after pretests in an inconspicuous place.

C Basic cleaning

The basic cleaning should be done after the individual cleaning schedule or according to contamination (once or twice a year). The removal of contaminated protective layer (initial treatment) is usually done by mechanically scrubbing, please never use abrasive pads or hard brushes. The removal is done with an alkaline base cleaner and the corresponding pads are recommended by the specialist company with the necessary equipment. Stains are best cleaned with a cleaning paste (never use solvents). After thorough cleaning of the surface it must be neutralized with clean water. When the floor has dried well, it must be treated with a new initial treatment for a subsequent protection.

If using too highly concentrated detergent and cleaners or if the cleaners are not neutralized, it can lead to changes in the degree of gloss or discoloration on the coatings. When in doubt, pre-preliminary tests should be done in an inconspicuous area.

Sources and advice for cleaning and maintenance products (Germany)

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| <p>WETROK GmbH Deutschland Maybachstraße 35 51381 Leverkusen Deutschland Telefon: 0049 (0)2171 398 - 0 Telefax: 0049 (0)2171 398 – 100 www.wetrok.de</p> | <p>Johannes Kiehl KG Robert-Bosch-Str. 9 85235 Odelzhausen Deutschland Telefon: 0049 (0)8134 9305-0 Telefax: 0049 (0)8134 6466 www.kiehl-group.com</p> |

Contact with other countries on the manufacturer's website

Note:

It is recommended to develop a cleaning-concept to the individual requirements of load in the project with the cleaning and maintenance product manufacturers (e.g. in the above list). If in doubt, preliminary tests on an inconspicuous area or in secondary areas shall be carried out.

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