

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person's foot wearing a white Converse sneaker with a red stripe. The foot is positioned on a dark, wet floor that reflects the shoe and the surrounding environment. The floor appears to be made of large tiles or slabs. The overall mood is gritty and industrial.

Mosa.

Cleaning and maintenance recommendations

Cleaning and maintenance recommendations

Mosa tiles have a timeless character and will retain their original appearance for a lifetime if they are properly maintained. This is easy if a few cleaning and maintenance recommendations are followed.





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Construction cleaning

Construction cleaning aims to deliver tiling ready for use and in the original condition as supplied by the manufacturer. A cement film that has not been completely removed can cause stubborn dirt in daily use. Removing the cement film completely and correctly enhances the tile floor's ease of maintenance during daily use, maintaining its original appearance.

Grouting and pre-cleaning

Thorough construction cleaning is essential for a maintenance-friendly tile floor and this starts at the grouting process.

Proceed as follows:

1. Prepare the grout in accordance with the grout manufacturer's instructions.
2. Clean the tiling with a clean, damp sponge to remove dust and dirt. The water film you just applied seals small irregularities in the surface and makes grouting easier.
3. Grout the tiling with a grout board and remove as much excess grout from the tile surface as possible while grouting.
4. After grouting, let the joints dry until they start to look dull. This can take 15 to 45 minutes. (Tip! If no grout appears on the finger after tapping the grout with a clean fingertip, the joint is ready for sponging.)
5. Then, rub the entire tile work in a rotating motion with a slightly moistened sponge board or a well-wrung sponge. This pre-cleaning gives the grout a nice, even appearance and can prevent the remaining grout from sticking to the tiles. Please note: use as little water as possible! If too much water is used during pre-cleaning, the joints can overwater, resulting in a loss of quality and a difference in colour.

The tiling is now ready for sponging. To sponge the tiling, Mosa recommends using a double-roll bucket (an elongated bucket with squeeze-out rollers) with clean water and a sponge board. The water must be changed very regularly.

Continue as follows:

6. Wet a clean sponge board in the double-roll bucket and squeeze out the excess water. Gently pull the sponge board over the tiling in diagonal movements. This promotes the absorption of the grout residues.
7. After each action, rinse the sponge board in the double-roll bucket, and press out the excess water.
8. Repeat these actions until the entire tiling is completely clean, with the water being changed regularly.
9. After sponging, the tiling can be rubbed dry with a cloth or paper towel.
10. It is best not to cover up the tiling until all residual moisture from the adhesive and the joints has evaporated. This can take 24 to 72 hours. If covering is still desired or necessary, it is recommended to use a breathable material rather than plastic sheeting. The use of plastic sheeting is strongly discouraged until all residual moisture has evaporated.

Removing silicone sealant

Fully-hardened silicone sealant hardly reacts to (chemical) cleaning agents, making these stains difficult to remove from all types of materials. Therefore, avoid staining as much as possible when grouting. Sealant stains must be removed immediately. For more information about this see the silicone sealant manufacturers' websites.



Removing cement film

If any grout residue - so-called cement film - is unexpectedly left behind after the tiling has dried, Mosa recommends using a cement film remover as a cleaning agent

Proceed as follows:

1. Mix the cement film remover with water, using the ratio specified by the manufacturer. Too high a dosage of cement film remover can affect the joints and permanently damage them.
2. Wet the tile surface with a floor cloth or mop and plenty of water. The water seeps into the joints' pores, effectively shielding them from the effects of the cement film remover.
3. Then apply the cement film remover with a sponge or brush and rub it in lightly.
4. Allow the cleaning agent to work for a few minutes, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Please note! Make sure the cleaning agent does not dry on the tiles. Drying can cause the loosened grout residue to adhere even more stubbornly to the tile. Clean large surfaces preferably in parts (e.g. 20 square meters at the time).
5. Briefly scrub the cleaning agent and remove it soon after. It is recommended to use a water vacuum cleaner. Pay special attention to textured floor tiles. Rinse thoroughly or rub dry to ensure all cleaning fluid with grout residues has been completely removed from the grooves in the textured tiles.
6. Immediately after removing the cleaning agent, mop the floor thoroughly with plenty of clean water and rub dry with a paper or cloth towel. This also removes the last remnants of cleaning agents and dirt.

A cement film that has not been completely removed can cause stubborn dirt in daily use. Thorough removal of this film, therefore, enhances the tile floor's ease of maintenance during daily use, maintaining its original appearance.

With textured tiles, pay extra attention to removing the cement and grout residues from relief grooves to fully appreciate the colour and texture and ensure functional properties.

Mosa has a list of recommended products for removing cement residue, see page 19.



Regular cleaning

Mosa tiles are easy to maintain, provided the correct maintenance methods and products are used. Regular maintenance of tiled walls and floors is a prerequisite.

Spot cleaning

Remove incidental dirt and stains with suitable means (including a damp cloth, kitchen paper, sponge or mop) and rub thoroughly with a clean, dry cloth or mop.

Wall tiles

Wipe wall tiles regularly with a slightly damp microfibre cloth. For heavier soiling, a neutral or mildly alkaline all-purpose cleaner can be added. It is recommended to use a spray bottle with water and add a few drops of all-purpose cleaner if desired. Spray this solution directly onto the microfibre cloth and clean the surface. If necessary, rub dry with a dry cloth. Wash the microfibre cloth after use.

Floor tiles

Prevent the accumulation of dust and dirt by vacuuming or dusting the floor frequently. Using impregnated cloths for dusting is not recommended because they contain oil or paraffin that leaves a thin layer on the tile to which dust and dirt can accumulate again. Impregnated cloths can often be recognised by a (resealable) foil packaging that prevents them from drying out.

- The floor should be cleaned regularly with a damp cloth to remove accumulated dirt. First, loose dirt must be removed by vacuuming or dusting the floor tiles.
- Clean the floor with a microfibre flat mop system. The mop should not be too wet; Using too much water reduces the effectiveness of the microfibre.
- When using a regular microfibre mop, we recommend using a spray bottle; Spray a small amount of water directly onto the microfibre mop and clean the floor.
- If necessary, add a dash of cleaning vinegar or ammonia to the water, or just a few drops of a special tile cleaner, such as HMK R157 from Moeller Stonecare.
- Wet the mop again if it becomes too dry.
- If the cloth or mop is saturated with dirt, it should be replaced with a clean one.
- Microfibre cloths or mops can be washed in the washing machine, but do not add fabric softener.

Anti-slip tiles and textured tiles

Anti-slip tiles and textured tiles are more sensitive to dirt and, in practice, require more intensive maintenance than flat tiles. Match the cleaning materials to the tile's profile, for example, a deep-pile (microfibre) mop or a brush that can adapt to the floor's profile.

Because more water remains on a textured tile than on a flat tile, it takes longer for a textured floor to dry. This allows lime, dirt and soap residue to accumulate more quickly. Drying the floor after use reduces the risk of dirt accumulation. Use a dry towel or a squeegee, preferably made of white rubber.

If necessary, accumulated dirt can be removed by scrubbing the floor with a solution of water and alkaline intensive cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions and adjust the dosage if necessary to the degree of soiling.

Proceed as follows:

1. Switch off any underfloor heating well in advance and wait until the floor has cooled down.
2. Allow the cleaning agent to work for a few minutes.
3. Briefly scrub the floor and then remove the cleaning agent completely, for example, by pulling it towards the drain with a floor squeegee.
4. Rinse or mop the floor thoroughly with clean water and dry it afterwards. Use a dry towel or a squeegee, preferably made of white rubber.

For a product list of alkaline intensive cleaners recommended by Mosa, see page 19.



Major cleaning operation floor tiles

Even if you regularly and correctly maintain your tiled floor, a haze can form over time due to residues of cleaning agents and dirt. Carry out a major cleaning once or several times a year to remove built-up residues of cleaning agents and dirt. This returns the floor to its original state.

Alkaline intensive cleaner

For such a major cleaning operation, scrub with a solution of a strong alkaline intensive cleaner and water. Use a cleaner without added rinse aid or added protective or impregnating agents. Follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions and adjust the dosage if necessary to the degree of soiling. A natural, pure liquid soap is usually very effective in dissolving and removing tenacious contamination.

Proceed as follows:

1. Switch off any underfloor heating well in advance and wait until the floor has cooled down.
2. First, loose dirt must be removed by vacuuming or dusting the floor tiles.
3. Dilute the cleaning agent with water, using the ratio specified by the manufacturer and apply it to the floor. Scrub the solution with a scrubbing broom and allow the cleaning agent to work for a few minutes. Make sure the cleaning agent does not dry on the floor in the meantime.
4. Remove all cleaning agent from the floor after the exposure time. The use of a water vacuum cleaner makes it easier to remove the liquid and ensures a dry floor. This also minimises the amount of residual cleaning agent that contains dirt particles.
5. Finally, mop the floor thoroughly with a clean (microfibre) mop and clean water. This also removes the last residue of cleaning agent and ensures that the floor dries streak-free.

For larger surface areas, replacing the scrubbing broom with a single-disc machine is advisable. This cleans the floor effortlessly and effectively in a fraction of the time that manual scrubbing takes. Single-disc machines and water vacuum cleaners can be rented from specialised rental and DIY companies.

For a product list of alkaline intensive cleaners recommended by Mosa, see page 19.

Acid-based intensive cleaner

In some cases, an alkaline cleaner will not be able to remove all contamination, so a second cleaning step must be carried out with an acid-based cleaning agent. This may be the case, for example, in bathrooms, regions with relatively calcareous water, or when light residues of cement or grout are left on the surface as a result of incomplete construction cleaning. The cleaning product must contain a highly concentrated acidic component and be suitable for ceramic floor tiles. Follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions and adjust the dosage if necessary to the degree of soiling. The working method for an acid-based intensive cleaner is the same as that for an alkaline intensive cleaner.

For a product list of acid-based intensive cleaners recommended by Mosa, see page 19.

Professional cleaning regular

Mosa wall and floor tiles are modern, high-quality products with absolutely minimal moisture absorption. So-called impregnating, protective or other cleaning agents that leave residues are strongly discouraged because they cannot penetrate the product and therefore remain on the surface of the tile. This changes the original appearance of the tile and can negatively affect the anti-slip value of the tile. Besides, the applied layer can attract dirt, potentially leading to maintenance issues.

The correct cleaning method and the use of the correct maintenance products are important for daily professional maintenance.

Wall tiles

Wipe wall tiles in dry rooms regularly with a slightly damp microfibre cloth. If necessary, add a neutral or mildly alkaline all-purpose cleaner. It is recommended to use a spray bottle with water and add a few drops of all-purpose cleaner if desired. Spray this solution directly onto the microfibre cloth and clean the surface.

Bathrooms

In bathrooms, replace the neutral or mildly alkaline cleaning agent with an acidic cleaner if necessary to remove limescale and urine residues. Dilute the product in the mixing ratio specified by the manufacturer and spray it directly onto the surface to be cleaned. After a short exposure time, rinse the surface with clean water and rub dry with a microfibre cloth. Acid-based lime or cement film removers should be used with care because they can affect decorative elements or strips made of natural stone or stainless steel.

Floor tiles

Depending on the frequency of use, regular maintenance may be carried out with a floor mop in combination with a dry (non-impregnated) cleaning cloth or tack cloth, with a vacuum cleaner, with a slightly damp microfibre floor mop or with an automatic scrubber/dryer machine.

Anti-slip tiles and textured tiles

Textured tiles and tiles with a profile are more sensitive to dirt and, in practice, require more intensive maintenance than flat tiles. Cleaning agents and methods should be adapted to local conditions. However, the choice of cleaning agent and cleaning method should not negatively affect the anti-slip properties of the floor tile. Choose a sufficiently flexible disc (for example, white) or a brush that is able to adapt to the floor's profile. For an optimal cleaning result, it is recommended to alternate between manual dry or damp wiping, preferably once a week, and a cleaning session with the scrubber-dryer machine. Also, alternate between alkaline and acid-based intensive cleaners to prevent residue build-up as much as possible.





Professional cleaning major

The major cleaning operation concerns floor tiles and is carried out once or several times a year to remove built-up residue from cleaning agents and dirt. Before major cleaning, the floor must be cleared of loose dirt by vacuuming or dusting.

Alkaline intensive cleaner

The major cleaning process should involve using both a single-disc machine and a wet vacuum cleaner, along with a solution of a strong alkaline intensive cleaner and water. Use a cleaner without added rinse aid or added protective or impregnating agents. Follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions and adjust the dosage if necessary to the degree of soiling.

Proceed as follows:

1. Switch off any underfloor heating well in advance and wait until the floor has cooled down.
2. Apply the cleaning solution to the floor.
3. Brush in the solution with the single-disc machine.
4. Allow the cleaning agent to work for a few minutes. Make sure the floor does not dry in the meantime.
5. Scrub the floor again with the single-disc machine.
6. Use the wet vacuum cleaner to remove the liquid immediately afterwards.
7. Finally, mop the floor thoroughly with a clean (microfibre) mop and clean water.

For a product list of alkaline intensive cleaners recommended by Mosa, see page 19.

Acid-based intensive cleaner

In some cases, an alkaline cleaner may not be able to remove all contamination, so a second cleaning step must be carried out with an acid-based cleaning agent. This may be the case, for example, in bathrooms, in regions with relatively calcareous water, or when light residues of cement or grout are left on the surface as a result of incomplete construction cleaning. The cleaning product must contain a highly concentrated acidic component and be suitable for ceramic floor tiles. Follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions and adjust the dosage if necessary to the degree of soiling.

For a product list of acid-based intensive cleaners recommended by Mosa, see page 19.

Professional cleaning tools

Depending on the surface of the tile, the size of the floor and the degree of soiling, different tools can be used to effectively clean a tiled floor.

Floor squeegee or vacuum cleaner

For low frequency of use or light soiling, a floor squeegee or vacuum cleaner can be used. For flat tiles, daily dusting with a floor squeegee and dry cloths is sufficient. Daily vacuuming is recommended for textured tiles.

Microfibre mop system

For small areas or as an alternative to dry wiping or vacuuming with normal use frequency or light soiling, daily wiping with a microfibre mop system is recommended. Use a slightly damp mop with a high microfibre content; minimum 50%. It is recommended to use a system with integrated humidification or pre-moistened mops. For floors with a slightly profiled tile, use a long-piled microfibre mop. If necessary, add 0.1% to a maximum of 0.5% (10 to 50 millilitres per 10 litres of water) of maintenance product or white vinegar to the water. The cleaning agent must be suitable for unglazed floor tiles.

Single disc machines and water vacuum cleaners

Professional major cleaning should be carried out with both a single-disc machine and a water vacuum cleaner. Single-disc machines and water vacuum cleaners can be rented from specialised rental and DIY companies. Choose a sufficiently flexible disc (for example, white) or a brush that is able to adapt to the floor's profile. For an optimal cleaning result, it is recommended to alternate between manual dry or damp wiping, preferably once a week, and a cleaning session with a scrubber-dryer machine. Also alternate the cleaning agents used to prevent residue build-up as much as possible.

Scrubber/dryer machine

Instead of a single-disc machine and wet vacuum cleaner, a scrubber-dryer can also be used. During the first pass, turn off the suction function of the machine and brush the cleaning fluid onto the surface. After a few minutes of exposure, scrub the floor again with the machine and the suction function switched on. Finally, the floor is scrubbed a third time using only clean water. Make sure that the scrubber/dryer machine's reservoir is thoroughly rinsed clean before refilling it with water. For non-slip and textured tiles, choose a suitable disc or brush that can adapt to the floor's profile. For large spaces, or in addition to dry or wet daily maintenance. Add a maximum of 0.5% (50 millilitres per 10 litres of water) detergent or white vinegar to the water in the machine. The cleaning agent must be low foaming for use in scrubber-dryers and must be suitable for unglazed floor tiles. For flat tiles, use a maximum of one red disc.

High-pressure cleaner

Where circumstances permit, a high-pressure cleaner can also be used to remove very heavy contamination. However, there is a risk of damage to the joints. With epoxy joints, the water temperature may not exceed 75 degrees Celsius.





Cleaning products recommendation

Mosa recommends the following products as cement residue removers, alkaline and acid-based intensive cleaning agents. Alongside these recommendations, it's important to always check the supplier's usage guidelines beforehand. These instructions can be found on the packaging of the cleaning product in question or on the website of the supplier in question.

Cement film removers

- HMK R183 Cement film-Ex (Moeller Stonecare)*
- Lithofin KF Cement film remover*
- Cement Remover (Faber Tile & Stone Care)*

Alkaline-based intensive cleaner

- HMK R157 Intensive Tile cleaner (Moeller Stonecare)
- Lithofin KF Intensive cleaner
- Deep Degreaser (Faber Tile & Stone Care)

Acid-based intensive cleaner

- HMK R159 Tile and- en Bathroom cleaner (Moeller Stonecare)*
- Lithofin KF Bathroom cleaner*
- Tile Cleaner (Faber Tile & Stone Care)*

* Please note! When using strongly acidic cleaning agents, ensure good ventilation. Some acid-based cleaners can damage natural stone or metal surfaces. Make sure that acid-based cleaners do not come into direct contact with, among other things, natural stone, taps, hinges or decorative strips. It is also recommended that, after using strong acid-based cleaners, these surfaces be cleaned with a neutral all-purpose cleaner to prevent damage by acid fumes.



More information

These cleaning recommendations replace all previous versions and have been compiled with the utmost care in collaboration with leading adhesive manufacturers, among others. The recommendations are based on the most current knowledge. For the most recent information see our website www.mosa.com.

These cleaning recommendations are intended as information about Mosa products, properties and applications, and therefore do not apply as any form of guarantee for the advice stated. Mosa does not accept any complaints or liability for any deviations from the advice given in this brochure.

Processors must obtain full information in advance about the product properties, processing guidelines, and safety regulations of the relevant manufacturers through the product and safety sheets. For guarantees and liability, please refer to our General Terms and Conditions of Sale, Delivery and Payment. No rights can be derived from the content of this cleaning advice. Typographical errors reserved.

For instructional videos on the maintenance of Mosa tiles, visit www.mosa.com. You can also contact Mosa for advice on removing stubborn stains.

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