

CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

Care and maintenance of chemically densified and polished concrete floors



Durable Quality through Simple Care

With the decision for a chemically densified and polished concrete floor, you have chosen a durable, high-quality, and environmentally friendly surface solution with a long service life and excellent optics even when subjected to an intensive mechanical load. The desired usage properties of the concrete floor and its aesthetically pleasing appearance are imparted to the surface of the floor from within.

The concrete densifier causes a controlled densification of the concrete structure in the surface of the concrete and thus increases its hardness, abrasion resistance, chemical resistance and ease of care. The gloss is an indication of the refinement and must not be confused with a gloss layer; it does not affect the slip resistance, either. These features can be permanently preserved and substantially influenced with the right care and maintenance.

The Older, the Better

Especially in the initial phase after their installation, chemically densified and polished concrete floors require the user to be knowledgeable, understanding, and patient. The densification process is initiated when the concrete is first treated, and this process will

continue for several months until the surface is densified. As early as a few days after the treatment of the concrete, hardness, resistance to dust, and mechanical strength are achieved. The floor retains its natural appearance. However, it has not yet reached its maximum density. Regular wet cleaning and mechanical load (forklift and foot traffic) are conducive to the densification process.

During this time, the concrete floor surface still allows penetration and is prone to stains. Any impurities (oils, fats, and the like) should therefore be removed immediately. Even though they will not penetrate the floor, they lead to optical impairment and staining.

After 6 to 12 months, the densification process is almost completed. The floor is now resistant to most liquids and impurities (see data sheet on the chemical resistance of concrete).

Professional Cleaning

Dirt acts like sandpaper and can cause the shine to fade. Before wet cleaning, the floor should be swept. Do not forget the edge areas! In order to avoid excessive dirt deposit on the surface, it is recommended to provide, e.g., cleaning zones or dirt trap mats, especially in the entrance areas.

In the first year of use, we recommend several wet cleanings per week. During that period, impurities that affect the concrete should quickly be removed. After that, depending on the optical requirements, longer cleaning intervals are sufficient. Depending on the degree of soiling (tire marks, oils, fats), degreasing and dirt-removing neutral or slightly alkaline cleaning agents can be added to the water.

The use of cleaning agents, such as e.g. **NORTEC® CLEAN**, which are especially designed for concrete cleaning, do not require rinsing or leave any residue, is highly recommended for light dirt and for maintenance cleaning. Cleaning with water only is not recommended, as the dirt is not effectively removed and can re-accumulate on the surface.

As with all concrete floors, acidic cleaning agents, e.g. sanitary cleaners, or cleaning agents on a vinegar or sulphate basis, should not be used as they can permanently attack the concrete and cause its surface to appear dull.

Note:

Never use care dispersions, care emulsions, wax, or sweeping powder on a chemically densified and polished floor!

Acidic substances and foods such as coffee, Coke, ketchup or wine attack the concrete surface. For this field of application, we recommend additional long-term surface protection.

Cleaning Accessories

For smaller areas, a bucket and mop are sufficient. In general, for industrial applications or commercial structures, we recommend automatic cleaning machines (hand-guided, stand-on, and sit-on scrubbing machines) with red machine pads for basic cleaning and initial maintenance cleaning.

After completion of the installation and in the case of stubborn stains, the use of single-disc machines with a red cleaning pad and a basic and intensive cleaning agent may be required.

In the case of light staining and after complete densification, the use of slightly softer industrial pads is sufficient for regular care. The use of brush plates is not recommended. Experience has shown that the cleaning effect is inferior.

Note on Cleaning During the Installation Phase

Since these floors are exposed concrete surfaces, they should be protected against chemical attacks and optical impairments caused by mortar, plaster, paints, oils, greases or rust even during the installation phase. Contamination of that kind should either be stopped or removed immediately.

In any case, a wet cleaning is recommended before the project is handed over, or shelving or machinery is installed.

