

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF POLISHED AND SEMI POLISHED TILE**

We are pleased to offer full polished and semi-polished versions of many of our collections. In order to maintain the beauty of these finishes, it is essential to follow these guidelines for selecting, installing, cleaning, protecting, and maintaining your floor.

### **1. First Step – Selecting the right tile for your floor**

Before you choose a floor tile, it is very important to understand the suitable uses for a polished tile, especially if it is fully polished. Residential settings are perfect as well as light to medium commercial locations. Areas within these settings subject to getting wet or subject to foot traffic coming in from outdoors should be protected with suitable mats to prevent slipping in case of a wet floor and to protect the floor from dirty shoes in entranceways or heavy traffic pattern areas. Heavy traffic commercial areas are generally not indicated for polished tile.

### **2. Installation – leave it to a professional!**

An expert, professional tile installer is what we recommend for installing polished tile and having it look its best over the years. Choose your installer carefully, and be sure he knows how to and has experience installing polished material. The expert installer also knows how to choose the proper grout for polished glazed porcelain and will know:

- **USE** the *new cement based grouts*, and
- **AVOID** epoxy based grouts.

Before the installer begins grouting the tiled floor, it is always important to choose grout made specifically for polished glazed porcelain, test and make sure the grout is compatible with the tile, and follow the grout manufacturer's instructions carefully. It is absolutely essential to respect the recommended time frames for setting and cleaning the tiles. Once the installation is finished, all grout residue must be removed immediately while it is still fresh. **These steps for installation and cleaning are of fundamental importance to ensure the correct maintenance your tiled surface afterwards.**

### **3. The First Cleaning After Installation – Only for Professionals!**

Before the job can be officially considered done and the floor ready for use, a special cleaning process must be done. This is a one-time, deep cleaning to be handled by a professional in order to remove all remaining installation residue once the adhesive and grout have aged properly. Make sure all rinsing is done with abundant and clean water. Rinsing with dirty water could ruin the whole outcome of the job. We recommend using Fila PS87 or an equivalent product, and, as always, it is essential to follow the manufacturers instructions to the letter for diluting and using the product.

The following steps are important for this cleaning process:

- a. The floor must be vacuumed and free of all removable dirt and dust.
- b. Dilute the detergent with hot water according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- c. Apply the product using a normal floor mop for tile floors, or

- d. Use an electric floor scrubber with SOFT, green pads.

Leave the product on the tile for the amount of time as indicated by the manufacturer's instructions, and then rinse accurately and repeatedly with plenty of hot, clean water until all residue and haze has been removed.

**Should any flaws become apparent after the installation and cleaning, it is necessary to contact the store where the tile was purchased.**

#### **4. Protect your polished floor**

Industrial polishing and semi-polishing of porcelain stoneware can open up micro-pores on the surface of the tile, which can, over time, trap dirt or oils and grease.

As per the notice printed on our boxes, we recommend protecting polished and semi-polished floors with a suitable sealing product. Always be extremely careful to follow the instructions for applying the product.

**IMPORTANT: OUR FULLY POLISHED PRODUCTS HAVE A PROTECTIVE SEALER APPLIED ON THE PRODUCTION LINE. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND, IN ANY CASE, TO APPLY EXTRA PROTECTION BY USING THE PRODUCT, FILA PD15 WHICH HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TESTED ON OUR POLISHED TILES.**

<http://www.filasolutions.com/en/products/porcelain-and-ceramics/protectors/dirt-repellents/filapd15.html>

#### **5. Daily maintenance and cleaning**

A polished floor should be washed with normal, domestic use, NEUTRAL pH detergents and plenty of warm water in order to maintain its natural shine. **BEWARE** of products that say that no rinsing is necessary, as detergents should always be completely rinsed off a polished floor.

Recommended cleaning tools and methods:

- a. electric water cleaner or steam cleaner (with distilled water)
- b. always use neutral pH detergents

Cleaning tools and methods to avoid:

- a. acid based products
- b. alkaline based products
- c. bang cleaning products (i.e. Cillit Bang)
- d. abrasive sponges or scrubbing pads
- e. electric floor buffers and wax
- f. chemical rust removers or any kind of spray containing hydrofluoric acid

The technical characteristics of our products are constantly monitored and kept stable. Proper use and treatment of the tiles will not cause damage, and furthermore our products

are tested at regular intervals to ascertain the stain resistance as per the internationally accepted UNI EN standards.

NOTE: As per the standard **Uni 11493.2013 paragraph 5.2.2**: “A visual examination of the tiling must be performed at a minimum distance of 1,5 meters. Angled lighting is not permitted. Any surface effects which can not be seen at this distance with the correct lighting are not to be considered defects or imperfections.”

We decline all liability for any problems or defects which appear in their tiles should the above mentioned instructions for the installation, cleaning, and maintenance not be followed.