

General cleaning recommendations for CONICA stone carpet (indoor / outdoor)

Introduction

Like any other floor covering, **CONICA stone carpet coverings are subject to careful cleaning and care to maintain their appearance and functionality.**

However, **stone carpets** are usually **used** very **differently**, be it by pedestrian traffic in the private or commercial area or occasional vehicle traffic in exhibition areas indoors or pedestrian, bicycle traffic as well as wheelchairs, prams, and the like as well as light vehicle traffic with service vehicles in the outdoor area as well as chemical and thermal loads.

Ultimately, the floor **covering must not only meet requirements for functionality, safety and cleanliness, stone carpet surfaces are also increasingly subject to representative tasks**, including the long-term preservation of the appearance but also, e.g., in the case of open-pored coverings, the preservation of the drainage function.

For these reasons, cleaning and care are crucial for a long service life.

A. Prevention and avoid dirt

Planning **adequately sized clean-up zones with carpet/protection mats to prevent and reduce the amount of dirt entering** the building can already prevent damage to the floor covering. Even a length of 5 - 6 meters of the clean-off zone can reduce the dirt ingress by up to 70 - 80%. If necessary, e.g., in the wintertime an additional protection zone is produced with removable carpet mats.

Not only the cleaning alone, but also **further protective measures by means of soft protective caps or felt pads on chair and table legs and the use of the correct chair castors (recommended type W according to DIN EN 12529)** can help prevent and reduce damage and scratches on the floor surface.

The contact surfaces of chair and furniture glides should be rounded and flat at the edges. Sharp-edged furniture glides and worn and soiled chair castors increase wear and tear or can damage the surface of the covering and also require regular maintenance and cleaning.

Rubber, caoutchouc or PVC glides and chair castors as well as other coloured mats can lead to discoloration of the surfaces due to the migration of plasticizers. We therefore recommend using light-coloured furniture glides, e.g., made of felt.

For exhibition areas of vehicles such as cars, motorbikes or bicycles, darker colours are helpful for concealing stains caused by plasticizer migration, which can never be completely ruled out, alternatively, transparent plastic sheets under the tires can prevent plasticizer migration during the idle time.

In the case of early use **during the construction phase and before the actual transfer of use**, the new floor covering must be **protected from dirt, wear and tear and damage with suitable cover plates and / or protective films.**

B. Cleaning and effort

The cleaning effort and required cleaning frequency depend on various factors.

1) Load and usage:

Stone carpet coverings are subject to different loads and uses and are sometimes less frequented, e.g., in private living spaces, **or very heavily and frequently**, e.g., in public areas such as shops, exhibition areas or foyers.

2) Surface texture and structure:

The **effort in cleaning** depends further on the **surface structure or texture.**

Interior stone carpets with a closed-pore surface can generally be cleaned with less effort than open-pored and structured stone carpets. Furthermore, the granulate used has a great influence on the cleanability of the stone carpet covering. Round grains are usually easier to clean than broken and angular stone grains.

3) Appearance:

The [choice of colours and decors](#) for the stone carpet coverings [also have an impact on the amount of cleaning and maintenance required](#). Very light and very dark floor coverings can require more cleaning and maintenance, especially in the case of "plain-coloured" floor surfaces.

High-gloss surfaces highlight dirt particles visually, creating the impression that the floor is "dirt-prone".

Note: [Not the floor covering produces the dirt!](#)

C. Cleaning and care types:

Worldwide, there is a very large variety of providers of various cleaning and care products and very different requirements in trade, industry, and healthcare facilities. Therefore, it is not possible for us to create a generally binding and universal cleaning and care instructions because the requirements are too wide-ranging. However, [with the following recommendation we would like to set up the generally used cleaning steps for the cleaning and care of CONICA stone carpet coverings](#):

a. Basic and maintenance cleaning

After completion of the services and hardening of the stone carpet covering, the [floor must be protected by covering and protective foils](#) before the transfer of use, especially if it is used during the further construction phase. Nevertheless, after removing the protective and covering measures, it is necessary to clean the floor covering from dust, dirt, and any adhesive residues from the adhesive tapes by performing a thorough cleaning on the building site. For [rough cleaning, the surface is vacuumed](#) with a vacuum cleaner, so that dirt and dust are removed from the open pores.

The [basic cleaning](#) takes place [depending on the level of soiling](#) and is the "major cleaning". The construction site dirt must be removed with water and, at the beginning, [never with abrasive pads and never with hard brushes using a neutral basic cleaner](#) for stone coverings. The corresponding cleaning agents are recommended by the specialist companies with the corresponding devices.

Use very [low cleaning agent](#) as the surfactants that can penetrate the open-pored structure can accelerate new soiling.

After thorough cleaning, the covering must be [neutralized with clear water](#).

We recommend using a scrubber or a brush as tools, then the surface is vacuumed with a wet vacuum cleaner.

For [smaller areas](#), spray or wash-vacuum cleaner are also suitable, which permanently apply fresh water to the area and vacuum the dirty water at the same time. Suitable devices can be borrowed from DIY and specialist stores for a small daily fee.

For [larger areas](#), we recommend using automatic cleaning machines with double brushes rotating in opposite directions (do not use hard brushes). These machines usually work with a small amount of water that is immediately absorbed by the machine. As a result, only a little water is carried into the substrate and the counter-rotating rollers enable quick and not too abrasive cleaning.

[High-pressure cleaners](#) are [less or not suitable for indoor use](#) because the amount of water that occurs cannot be completely absorbed.

In the [outdoor area for open-pore stone carpet coverings](#), however, a [high-pressure cleaner makes sense for basic or annual cleaning](#), since the dirt can be washed out here by dust, leaves or pollen and thus the functionality of the drainage can be permanently ensured.

Here, however, the [maximum working pressure must not exceed 80 bar](#); in the case of small aggregates, the pressure may be still to be reduced. In any case, cleaning must be carried out at a sufficient distance; [punctual loads \(point jets\) are to be avoided](#). The cleaning should be carried out with cold, maximally warm water (max. 50 ° C).

Note: [Undiluted and over-concentrated cleaning agents or non-neutralized cleaning agents can in individual cases lead to changes in the degree of gloss](#), in the worst case, discoloration of the coatings. [Acidic cleaners are not recommended](#) as they lead to matting and can also attack the grains of natural stone (e.g., marble).

b. Removing of stains

Entrained, sticky dirt such as [chewing gum](#), [tar stains](#) should be removed immediately if possible. Fresh chewing gum [can be embrittled with an icing spray and can then be removed with a brush](#). Stubborn dirt that has not been removed for a long time can usually no longer be removed without leaving any residue.

When using commercially available stain removers or solvents, it is advisable to first carry out a test on an inconspicuous area. We cannot guarantee any colour changes.

In public open spaces, [discoloration](#) often occurs due to leaked operating materials such as battery acid (mostly yellowish discoloration), fuel residues (especially diesel), oils and brake fluids. These have to be removed regularly; if they are left to act for a long time, stains, and discoloration of the binding agent, but especially of the natural stone grains used, occur, which cannot be completely removed.

If there are trees in the vicinity of the stone carpet areas or if leaves are applied to the stone carpet areas by the wind, the leaves must also [be removed as quickly as possible](#), as the dyes and especially tannic acids (e.g., oak leaves) they contain can cause discoloration.

c. Winter operation

In the [cold season](#) there is a [risk of slipperiness](#) due to freezing moisture, even on the open-pored surfaces, when puddles form and water cannot run off. [If the use of de-icing salt does not help in these cases, the areas must be temporarily closed for security reasons](#). This applies to exposed stone carpet areas but especially exposed to weathered ramp areas as this is where the greatest risk of accidents exists.

[Scattered grit and sand have an abrasive effect on the stone carpet surface and change the surface](#), especially in heavily frequented areas. We therefore recommend avoiding the use of solid grit. If it is not possible to do without the use of gravel and sand, the grit and sand must be removed regularly, and appropriate cleaning carried out in spring at the latest to restore the drainage properties.

In general, care should be taken to ensure that the tools and equipment used for clearing snow are metal-free, if possible, use plastic shovels and slides or metal slides with a [hard rubber lip](#).

This applies above all to machine-operated snow clearing devices, which are often used on surfaces that are exposed to the weather. Here it must be ensured that only light machines are used (tailored to the system structure and load-bearing capacity) and that the [clearing blades are equipped with protective rubber strips](#) and that these must also be serviced regularly. Clearers with rotating brushes that sweep the snow to the side are better.

[We recommend cleaning the stone carpet surfaces at least once a year after the winter](#). Gutters and inlets are to be considered here. Salt deposits on the steel structure and the coating must be washed off with cold water high-pressure cleaning. Avoid excessive pressure and extreme punctual loads. When using cleaning agents to better remove heavy deposits of dirt, it is generally recommended to check the compatibility in an inconspicuous place beforehand and also to consider the environmental compatibility. [After cleaning, the surfaces should be inspected for mechanical damage](#) in order to record this within the maintenance plan and to initiate an immediate repair to avoid consequential damage. Existing joints must be checked for functionality.

Suppliers and advice for cleaning and care products

Germany:

Diversey Deutschland
GmbH & Co. OHG
Mallaustraße 50-56
68219 Mannheim
Germany
Telephone: 00 49 (0) 62 18757 - 0
Telefax: 0049 (0) 62 18757-8266
www.diverseysolutions.com/de
<http://diverseysolutions.com/>

Germany:

WETROK GmbH Deutschland
Maybachstraße 35
51381 Leverkusen
Germany
Telephone: 0049 (0)2171 398 - 0
Telefax: 0049 (0)2171 398 – 100

www.wetrok.de
www.wetrok.de/en/

Germany:

Johannes Kiehl KG
Robert-Bosch-Str. 9
85235 Odelzhausen
Germany
Telephone: 0049 (0)8134 9305-0
Telefax: 0049 (0)8134 6466

www.kiehl-group.com
<https://www.kiehl-group.com/index.php?lang=EN>

Note

It is advisable to develop a cleaning concept adapted to the load and use with cleaning agent manufacturers (for example with the companies in the list above). In case of doubt, preliminary tests should be carried out on an inconspicuous place or in secondary areas.

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