

Maintenance

The initial cleaning done immediately after the flooring is laid, is of essential importance for removing all mortar, adhesives and epoxy residues that may be left in the joints. In this initial phase, we recommend that you use an acid product such as DETERDEK (or similar options in your local market), in a 1:5 concentration.

Rub energetically to obtain the maximum cleaning. After washing the floor, which is just as important, rinse thoroughly with plenty of water to remove all traces of the detergent used. These steps are recommended for all Merito products.

Thanks to the characteristics of the production process (high firing temperature, raw materials of great quality, sintering process), the surface of our material is waterproof (the water absorption is minimal). Therefore the dirt cannot penetrate but it is necessary to remove it from the surface. To avoid the forming of greasy layers, do not use detergents containing waxes or waxing products; instead refer to your provider for choosing the most appropriate detergent. After the installation of floors, particularly of those made with polished materials, the surfaces should be adequately protected with particle board or other suitable materials to protect them from dirt and on-site processing. This prevents damage caused by subsequent processing.

For these materials, after completing the steps described in the section “Initial Cleaning”, you only need to clean the floor with hot water containing small quantities of an alkaline detergent such as FILA CLEANER with a concentration of 1:200. On these types of surfaces it is not advisable to apply a waterproofing product: the absence of porosity causes the waterproofing agent to deposit on the surface unevenly and will have an unwanted aesthetic effect.

For commercial and heavily used surface areas such as airports, hospitals, supermarkets, and any public spaces with heavy foot traffic - subject to considerable soiling, it is necessary to use automatic cleaning machines with suction of the washing liquids.

This allows not only deep cleaning, but also the continuous removal of liquids containing substances that cause soiling, thus preventing the formation of films that are difficult to remove. Any detergent in the market can be used in the desired concentration for cleaning the high technology sinterized Merito products, with the exception of HYDROFLUORIC acid (HF) or its compounds, according to UNI-EN 176 standards. In order to keep costs limited and speed up maintenance operations, the detergent concentration must always be as low as possible.

For raised floors we suggest choosing bright or polished surfaces in large sizes: these materials can be dry cleaned or be cleaned with a minimum use of liquids. After the floor is laid, it is necessary to make an accurate initial cleaning with proper products.

Installation

Traditional Floor Laying

Laying the Merito slabs requires similar laying conditions to those used for traditional format slabs. Merito products require the adhesives to be applied both on the setting bed and on the back of the slab. Our slabs for flooring require the following conditions:

- A flat surface
- A surface that is clean and free from dust, scraps, and any lumps of cement
- The setting bed that is uniform and has undergone the drying shrinkage process
- A surface that is free from any cracks
- A surface that is free from any uneven area

Instruments required

- Cement-based powder adhesive for full spread, class C2E according to EN12004 and S1 according to EN12002 standards
- 3x3 mm square toothed trowel and 15 mm round toothed trowel
- Frame with suction cups for handling or double suction cups
- Non-bounce plastic mallet 170 mm x 370 mm
- Levelling system: base clip + wedge + pliers

Processing Stages

- 1) Ensure that the surface to be covered is solid, flat and free from dust and oil/grease.
- 2) Use the adhesives described above mixed according to the specifications indicated in the technical data sheet of the chosen adhesive.
- 3) Spread the adhesive onto the surface to be covered with a 15 mm round-toothed trowel across an area of 5/10 cm more than the dimensions of the slab.
- 4) With the slab in a vertical position on the handling frame, spread the adhesive onto the back of the slab with a 3 mm x 3 mm square-toothed trowel.
- 5) Using the frame with suction cups, bring the slab into a horizontal position and lay it.
- 6) To guarantee uniform bonding of the slab, use a special 170 x 370 mm, non-bounce plastic mallet and work towards the edges to remove any air pockets between the back of the slab, the adhesive and the surface.

Levelling System

The levelling system aims to guarantee perfectly levelled floors simply and quickly, eliminating any unevenness between the slabs. The levelling system is strongly recommended for laying slabs

Instruments required

Base clip • Wedge • Adjustable pliers for installing floors/wall tiles

Positioning the base clip

- a) After spreading the adhesive, insert the base clip below the slab on the 4 sides.
- b) Depending on the format of the slab, position one or more supports for each side of the slab.
- c) Position the slab.

Inserting the wedge

Insert the wedge in the slot of the support, taking care not to exceed the breaking point.

NB: To make inserting the wedge easier, it is recommended to use adjustable pliers.

Removing the support

Once the adhesive has dried, the protruding part of the support can be separated from the base clip by tapping with your foot.

NB: It is recommended that the clamps and wedges are removed after 12 to 24 hours.

General Advice for Grouting

Pay attention while choosing joint sealants: check the technical sheets, choose them shadematched and follow carefully the recommended cleaning times, as many new generation colored sealants contain pigments and additives that can be very strong.

For polished or glossy surfaces, do not use epoxy grouts or synthetic-based, flexible mortars. Also, do not add additives/latexes to the grout, as they make the removal of residues with standard detergents very difficult. However, should you decide to use them, it is recommended to make a previous test off-site.

In all cases, it is recommended to consider leaving 2 to 3 millimeters of space during strapping.