

# CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS



The following instructions were developed by technical advisors for Argelith Ceramic Tiles. These general recommendations yield positive results in most facilities; consult with your account representative about any unique needs your facility may have.

## MACHINE CLEANING

Floors should be regularly cleaned using a floor scrubbing machine. Daily cleaning is recommended for most facilities.

Argelith does not recommend any particular brand of cleaning machine. Whatever brand you choose, your cleaning machine should have:

- A squeegee bar and vacuum
- Green or black scrubbing pads (not brushes)

Perform a maintenance check on your machine once a week. Make sure tanks are clean and check pads for wear.

Use the hottest water possible. Heat helps to break the bond between soil and the floor surface. Cleaning with cold water is less effective.

Use a concentrated industrial cleaner formulated for the substances in your facility (i.e., an auto shop should use a degreasing formula). **Dilute the cleaner according to manufacturer directions. MORE SOAP DOES NOT EQUAL MORE CLEAN.**

After making one pass using the cleaning solution, empty and rinse the machine's reservoir. Refill it with hot water only and do a second pass to thoroughly rinse the floor.

## CLEANING FREQUENCY

The frequency of your cleaning routine depends largely on the activity happening on the floor. Low-traffic areas may need to be cleaned only a few times per week, while high-traffic areas or areas with heavy exposure to water or spills may require two or more cleanings per day.

## SPILLS AND SPOT CLEANING

Argelith strongly advises against cleaning with a mop and bucket unless it is to spot-clean a spill. Spills should be spot cleaned promptly to prevent them from staining the grout. Spot cleaning should always be followed by machine cleaning at the end of the day.

## HARD-TO-REMOVE MARKS

Hard-to-remove marks are usually the result of not rinsing the floor after cleaning with a solvent.

Even though your machine uses a squeegee and vacuum, it will still leave behind traces of the diluted solvent. As the floor dries, the water evaporates, leaving a soapy film that attracts and holds on to dirt. This is also why mop cleaning should always be followed by machine cleaning.

If your floor has hard-to-remove marks, make several passes using only hot water in the cleaning machine. To prevent these marks, always clean with the hottest water possible and make a plain hot-water pass at the end of every cleaning to thoroughly rinse the floor.

## EXAMPLES OF CLEANING SUPPLIES



### CHOOSING A FLOOR SCRUBBER

Choose a walk-behind floor scrubbing machine with disc scrub heads that take scrubbing pads, a squeegee bar and a vacuum to remove cleaning solution from the floor.



### USE SCRUBBING PADS, NOT BRUSHES

Floor scrubbing pads can be bought in bulk and are available from many home improvement or janitorial supply retailers. Check pads regularly and replace worn pads promptly.

## CHOOSING A CLEANING SOLUTION

Choose the appropriate cleaner for the type of soil affecting your floor.

**Most industrial applications require a degreaser with a pH of 11 to 13.**

### pH of 0-5: Acidic

Descaler best used for mineral deposits and oxidation

### pH of 6-8: Neutral

"All-purpose" cleaners. May not be strong enough for heavy soil.

### pH of 9-14: Alkaline

Degreaser for all types of greasy or oil-based soil