



Leaflet + Guidelines

Cleaning methods for textile floor coverings including working steps

This leaflet does by no means replace the instructions in the care and cleaning instructions of the respective floor covering manufacturer.

This leaflet may only be used and quoted in its entirety.

Leaflet + guidelines of the werterhalt.org
working group on possible applications of the
various carpet cleaning processes including
the individual working steps.

This leaflet is based upon the specification of RAL 991/A3:2013
(definition of cleaning methods for textile floor coverings).

Since this definition represents a list of existing cleaning processes – without any indication of possible uses and intensity – the werterhalt.org working group has decided to draw up this leaflet.

This leaflet + the guidelines serve to exclude factual and technical misinterpretations of a pure definition and to provide the user with an opportunity to compare the quality of the cleaning work by means of precise work instructions in which compliance with the various working steps described therein shall be binding.

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This leaflet was prepared in cooperation with the Bundesverband Estrich und Belag e.V. (German Screed and Flooring Association). (BEB), working group on floor coverings.

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Managing Partner of Paul Geißler GmbH and Chairman of the Head Office of the German Carpet Cleaning Association (FDT®). Paul Geissler has been working with his company in the carpet value maintenance segment for more than 45 years and uses all cleaning processes recognized on the market nationwide according to property, covering and laying characteristics.

Due to his well-founded specialist knowledge, as well as based on the many years of cooperation with the German textile covering manufacturers and, furthermore, due to neutrality reasons, Paul Geißler GmbH was entrusted with the preparation of this leaflet.

The experts of the above-mentioned companies have been advocating for years that the customer's choice of a high-quality textile covering should be confirmed.

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1. TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS

For the purposes of this leaflet, this includes all textile floor coverings according to EN 1307 which are glued, tensioned, fixed, loosely laid, or otherwise professionally laid.

The cleaning process has been chosen based on its suitability for the respective textile floor covering, the type of installation, the underfloor construction and the possibility of maintaining the required drying times.

Please note:

Due to the variety of products, please check for manufacturer's recommendation, especially for reabsorbable textile floor covering constructions, e.g. tiles, boards, etc.

2. THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Make sure that the textile floor covering is sufficiently protected against soiling after installation.

If soiling occurs after installation of the textile floor covering and before moving into the premises as a result of construction work etc., this must be thoroughly removed by a qualified final cleaning.

Final cleaning shall include the removal of dry dirt by using the upright vacuuming method with professional, preferably counter-rotating brush roller machines.

In the event that more intensive soiling occurs, additional, partial intensive cleaning must be taken into account when tendering for the final cleaning of the building. This must be carried out exclusively by a qualified specialist company in accordance with item 6.

3. PREVENTIVE CARE

Textile floor coverings must be protected against the ingress of dirt right from the beginning.

Sufficiently large clean run zones suitable for the ingress of dirt must be permanently installed in entrance and transition areas (e.g. from hard floor to textile flooring).

Daily cleaning interval (upright vacuuming according to 4.1.) will prevent these clean run zones not becoming a source of dirt themselves ("stamp pad effect").

This stamp pad effect may also occur if products containing wax, for example, are not used properly in the care of hard floor coverings.

4 . D A I L Y M A I N T E N A N C E C L E A N I N G

4.1. Dust removal from textile floor coverings

Please make sure to remove dust and dirt regularly in order to conduct an optimal cleaning program.

Removing dust helps to also remove loose or slightly adhering dirt from the surface and from the fiber gaps by means of mechanical action (brushes) and extraction of the dissolved dirt. This cleaning process helps to restore the upright posture of the wear layer, which is also a prophylaxis against premature runway formation.

In addition, this process also helps to open the pile in pile carpets to prepare for subsequent cleaning.

Dust removal must be carried out daily, but is also considered to part of the intermediate, basic or intensive cleaning process.

The use of a brush vacuum cleaner with an electrically operated rotary brush is indispensable both for maintenance cleaning and for further cleaning processes. The use of a vacuum cleaner with a smooth floor nozzle is not suitable for cleaning textile floor coverings, because a smooth floor nozzle does not achieve the same cleaning and maintenance results like the rotary brush of a vacuum cleaner.

This applies irrespective of the cleaning class specified for the device on the EU label.

Make sure that the brush height is set correctly and that you work systematically and thoroughly.

Regular maintenance will be key for the functionality of the brush vacuum cleaner, especially of the brushes, filters (best results can be achieved with a microfilter) and bag. Brushes adapted to the coating must be used.

4.2. Stain treatment (stain removal) of textile floor coverings

Stain treatment is part of daily maintenance cleaning.

It is also an indispensable step in all further cleaning processes.

The stain treatment includes the local treatment of stains and impurities. Please work carefully to ensure that the cleaning agents used are removed without leaving any residue, so that no re-contamination or material damage occurs.

The stain treatment must be carried out as soon as you noticed a stain.

The earlier a stain is treated, the greater the probability of removing it without leaving any residue, unless the stain substance has already damaged the fiber or the coloring. You can usually remove stains completely if you treat stains immediately with suitable cleaning agents.

Not every staining, e.g. due to strong staining substances such as coffee, red wine, tea, mustard, toner etc., can be removed without leaving any residue.

Cleaning agents and stain removers with a bleaching effect may only be used in exceptional cases and after consultation with the floor covering manufacturer, as they may cause damage.

Dirt pick-up and stains can usually be removed with warm water and an absorbent cloth (white cotton cloth) or by using a microfiber glove. Do not rub, instead turn the stain out from the outside to the inside using pressure.

Water-soluble stains can be treated using a surfactant-free stain remover - as described above.

Remove water-insoluble stains (oils, fats, etc.) - as described above - using a suitable stain remover.

Remove chewing gum, candle wax etc. in dry condition with a blunt object (spoon etc.) without damaging the carpet fiber. Dissolve the remaining substance - as described above - with a suitable stain removing agent.

When using icing sprays, for example, please follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Whenever you use a stain remover, please make sure you test it on a piece of residual floor covering or on an inconspicuous or concealed area before.

Always keep cleaning agents out of the reach of children or animals.

The safety and application instructions of the detergent manufacturers must always be observed.

Before buying cleaning agents, it is recommended to check the above-mentioned instructions to ensure that the object-related specifications are adhered to.

Environmentally friendly and sustainable products are to be preferred.

Points 4.1. and 4.2. are part of the following cleaning procedures.

5 . I N T E R I M C L E A N I N G

Intermediate cleaning comprises the partial or full-surface cleaning of the floor covering surface with low depth effect and should only be carried out by a qualified specialist company.

Interim cleaning does not substitute basic or intensive cleaning, it can only delay it.

Irrespective of the individual procedure, a test cleaning must generally be carried out.

5.1. Cleaning with prefabricated foam

In this cleaning process, a crystalline-drying, standing foam which is prefabricated in the machine by means of a compressor is applied to the textile floor covering by rolling machines, single disc machines or similar.

After a drying time of at least 5 hours, the floor covering must be thoroughly vacuumed off again in order to remove the remaining crystalline residues of the foam enriched with dirt.

- 5.1.1. Dust removal with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in point 4.1.
- 5.1.2. Stain removal as described in point 4.2.
- 5.1.3. Application of prefabricated foam using a single, multi-disc or brushing machine with compressor 5.1.4.
- 5.1.4. Extraction of loosened dirt using a powerful industrial water vacuum cleaner
- 5.1.5. After complete drying, vacuum again as described in point 4.1.

5.2. Powder cleaning

This process may generally be used for velours carpets only (except shags etc.).

The advantage of this cleaning process is that the textile flooring surfaces hardly need drying times and can be walked on soon after.

Spread the moist cleaning powder evenly onto the textile floor covering by means of an applicator or by hand and then work it in intensively with special brush roller machines.

The dissolved dirt is absorbed by the cleaning powder and bound. After the powder has dried, the textile floor covering must be vacuumed very thoroughly several times with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in 4.1.

Using this method will help to remove most of the soiling and powder residues.

- 5.2.1. Dust removal with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in 4.1.
- 5.2.2. Stain removal as described in item 4.2.
- 5.2.3. Spread the moist powder evenly onto the covering and then brush it into the surface with special brush rolling machines.
- 5.2.4. After the covering has dried completely (approx. 1 hour) apply brush vacuuming as described in point 4.1.

5.3. Pad Cleaning

Start by using a special cleaning agent for example and spread it evenly with a powered pressure sprayer.

Loosen or remove the bound dirt from the surface by using a rotating single disc machine with a yarn or microfiber pad underneath where it will be collected.

When using single disc machines, make sure that the rotating speed is <200 rev/min. to avoid damaging the textile floor covering.

Please make sure that the yarn or microfiber pads are changed in due time in order to achieve an optimum cleaning effect. After the covering has dried completely, vacuum off the textile floor with a powerful brush vacuum cleaner.

The drying time is approx. 1 to 2 hours.

- 5.3.1. Dust removal with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in 4.1.
- 5.3.2. Dust removal as described in item 4.2.
- 5.3.3. Wetting the surface of the textile covering with a cleaning agent, e.g. using a powered pressure sprayer
- 5.3.4. Removal of dirt from the surface of the covering (low depth effect) by using a single disc machine and pad
- 5.3.5. After complete drying, vacuum as described in point 4.1.

6 . B A S I C A N D I N T E N S I V E C L E A N I N G

Intensive cleaning includes full surface cleaning of the textile floor covering in the entire depth of the wear layer.

It should be carried out as necessary for the object, but at least once a year after installation and should be carried out by a qualified specialist company only.

A test cleaning should generally be carried out, no matter which cleaning procedure is used.

When selecting the cleaning method, please take into account the floor covering construction, the type of installation, the underfloor construction and the drying time available.

The different processes can be combined with each other depending on the degree of contamination of the textile floor covering.

6.1. Spray extraction

Remove the loose or slightly adhering dirt with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in 4.1.

After pre-touching has been completed, spray a cleaning product with low content of surfactants for textile floor coverings onto the surface of the covering.

The dissolved dirt is extracted from the textile floor covering with the help of the spray extraction machine (with sufficient water flow rate).

Important!

- Do not use any cleaning product in the spray extraction machine (if cleaning product has been introduced into the fresh water container, the cleaning agent residue remaining in the textile floor covering must be rinsed out with sufficiently clear water)
- Rinse with clear water several times
- Drying time of at least 12 hours
- Do not use on water-sensitive floor covering, adhesive and underfloor constructions
- Do not use spray extraction on reabsorbable textile floor covering constructions (e.g. B. tiles, boards) and when installed on raised floor constructions. Spray extraction can be used in partial areas with low moisture input to support the stain removal. Individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory.

6.1.1. Dust removal with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in 4.1.

6.1.2. Stain removal as described in item 4.2.

6.1.3. Pre-spraying of a low-surfactant cleaning agent

6.1.4. Repeated rinsing with a spray extraction machine (with sufficient water flow rate)

6.1.5. After complete drying, vacuum again in as described in point 4.1.

6.2. The combination process

Shampooing and spray extraction

The loose or slightly adhering dirt is removed with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in point 4.1.

Following the pre-stain removal process, a cleaning liquid with a low surfactant content (a cleaning product with a low surfactant content) must be worked into the floor covering using a single-disc, three-disc or roller machine.

Before drying, the dissolved dirt is flushed from the textile floor covering using spray extraction as described in point 6.1.4.

Important!

- Use of low-surfactant cleaning products during shampooing
- No further cleaning product should be used in the spray extraction machine
- Rinse with clear water several times
- Drying time is hardly ever less than 20 hours
- Do NOT use on water-sensitive flooring, adhesive and underbody constructions.

6.2.1. Dust removal with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in 4.1.

6.2.2. Stain removal as described in item 4.2.

6.2.3. Apply a suitable cleaning product using a single, triple disc or roller machine

6.2.4. Rinse several times. Additional stain removal might be necessary as described in point 4.2. using a spray extraction machine (with sufficient water flow rate)

6.2.5. After complete drying, vacuum clean again as described in point 4.1.

6.3. The thermoelectric cleaning process TEP – TOP – Clean®

TEP-TOP-Clean® is a system specially developed and exclusively for intensive carpet cleaning. The loose or slightly adhering dirt is removed with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in point 4.1. After pre-stain treatment, an environmentally friendly enzyme solution is evenly applied to the textile floor covering.

During the actual cleaning process, the dirt is dissolved and absorbed by a special cleaning pad. The internal design of the cleaning machine with a unique deposited number of revolutions ensures a constant heat build-up (thermo-electrics) of approx. 30°C during this procedure. Finally, the textile floor covering is vacuumed off with a brush vacuum cleaner in order to erect the wear layer.

Recommended by all manufacturers this is ideal process for proper care right from the start.

The advantages of this process:

- no chemical residues due to the use of FDT® Enzyme Cleaner
- no re-soiling soon after
- immediate accessibility
- saves resources by using approx. 96% less drinking water
- ideal for use on water-sensitive floor covering and raised floor constructions, especially with reabsorbable tiles, boards, etc. with a high proportion of joints.
- Cost-efficient through reduction of consumption costs

6.3.1. Dust removal with a brush vacuum cleaner as described in point 4.1.

6.3.2. Stain removal according to item. 4.2.

6.3.3. Spray on the product with an electric spray pump with constant spraying pressure.

6.3.4. Treatment of the entire surface with a thermoelectric cleaning machine and cleaning pad with possible secondary treatment of stains as described in point 4.2.

6.3.5. Vacuum cleaning according to point 4.1.

7 . S U B S E Q U E N T F I B E R F I N I S H E S

It is not recommended to use subsequent fiber finishes as they may cause damage to the floor covering.

8 . S T E A M C L E A N E R

It is not recommended to use steam cleaners.

9 . S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y

Sustainability includes the protection of natural resources, economic performance, the safeguarding of socio-cultural values and also human health.

The werterhalt.org working group applies these values when treating carpets and floor coverings and it offers the full portfolio of competent cleaning and treatment of textile floor coverings.

The werterhalt.org working group published this leaflet helping the conservation of resources to be respected more widely. In principle,

- the process which entails the lowest possible consumption of resources with the same cleaning effect should be used
- one should use as little cleaning chemicals as possible
- the value of the textile floor covering and thus the service life of the textile floor covering should be preserved by using a care program planned properly from the outset.

Guidelines

or the information leaflet Cleaning methods for textile floor coverings including working steps

INTRODUCTION

The guidelines explain the necessary considerations around the cleaning of textile floor coverings in a simple and transparent manner, which should already be considered when selecting textile floor coverings.

STEP 1 – SELECTION OF THE TEXTILE FLOOR COVERING –

Guidelines 1 to 3:

ROLLS

Guideline 1: LOOP CARPET, COMBINATION LOOP/VELOURS,
FLAT FABRIC

Guideline 2: VELOURS

Guideline 3: NEEDLE FLEECE

Guidelines 4 to 6:

TILES- / MODULE FORM

Guideline 4: LOOP CARPET, COMBINATION LOOP/VELOURS,
FLAT FABRIC

Guideline 5: VELOURS

Guideline 6: NEEDLE FLEECE

STEP 2 – SELECTION OF THE INSTALLATION TYPE –

TAKING THE OBJECT RHYTHM INTO ACCOUNT BY SELECTING COLUMNS WITHIN THE
LEAFLET SHEET COLUMN

Column 1: GLUED SCREED

Column 2:

MOISTURE-SENSITIVE UNDERFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS /
INSTALLATION METHODS

AND/OR IF AFTER INTENSIVE CLEANING **NO** DRYING TIME OF AT LEAST
12 HOURS WITHOUT WALKING ON IS POSSIBLE!

LOOP CARPET, COMBINATION LOOP/VELOURS, FLAT WEAVE PATTERN

• ROLLS •

GLUED SCREED

- The construction phase *according to point 2.
- Preventive care *according to point 3.

MOISTURE-SENSITIVE UNDERFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS / INSTALLATION METHODS

AND/OR IF AFTER INTENSIVE CLEANING **NO** DRYING TIME OF AT LEAST 12 HOURS WITHOUT WALKING ON IS POSSIBLE!

- The construction phase *according to point 2.
- Preventive care *according to point 3.

THE DAILY MAINTENANCE CLEANING *according to point 4.

- Brush vacuum cleaning *according to point 4.1.
- Stain treatment *according to point 4.2.

- Brush vacuum cleaning *according to point 4.1.
- Stain treatment *according to point 4.2.

INTERIM CLEANING *according to point 5.

(carried out by a qualified specialist company)

- Cleaning with prefabricated foam *according to point 5.1.

- Cleaning with prefabricated foam *according to point 5.1.



Powder cleaning *according to point 5.2.
☞ NO !



Powder cleaning *according to point 5.2.
☞ NO !

- Pad cleaning *according to point 5.3.

- Pad cleaning *according to point 5.3.

THE BASIC OR INTENSIVE CLEANING *according to point 6.

(carried out at least once a year by a qualified specialist company)

Spray extraction *according to point 6.1.

Object routine: Drying time at least 12 hours without walking on!
Attention: Not suitable for water-sensitive floor covering, adhesive and underfloor constructions
Disadvantages: Lots of drinking water required, consider machine noise level!

Spray extraction *according to point 6.1. ☞ NO !



(To support the stain removal in partial areas while using only small amounts of moisture; the individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory)

The combination process *according to point 6.2.

Object routine: Drying time hardly ever less than 20 hours without inspection!
Attention: Do not use on water-sensitive floor covering, adhesive and underfloor constructions; use of cleaning products with low-surfactant content in shampooing
Disadvantages: Lots of drinking water required, consider machine noise level!



The combination process *according to point 6.2. ☞ NO !

The thermoelectric cleaning process
TEP – TOP – Clean® *according to point 6.3.

Object routine: Immediate accessibility.
Attention: Predestined for use with water-sensitive floor covering and double floor constructions, especially with recyclable tiles, boards, etc. with a high proportion of joints.
Advantages: No chemical residues; no rapid re-soiling; resource-saving due to approx. 96% savings in drinking water; economic efficiency due to the reduction of consumption costs.

The thermoelectric cleaning process
TEP – TOP – Clean® *according to point 6.3.



- No recommendation for subsequent fiber finishing *according to point 7.
- No use of steam cleaners *according to point 8.
- The selection of a textile floor covering has a direct influence on the subsequent care and cleaning.
- The working group werterhalt.org stands for sustainability *according to point 9.

VELOURS

• ROLLS •

GLUED SCREED

- The construction phase **according to point 2.*
- Preventive care **according to point 3.*

MOISTURE-SENSITIVE UNDERFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS / INSTALLATION METHODS

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- Stain treatment **according to point 4.2.*


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- Stain treatment **according to point 4.2.*


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(carried out by a qualified specialist company)

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Powder cleaning **according to point 5.2.*
 except Shags!

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- Pad cleaning **according to point 5.3.*


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
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NEEDLE FLEECE

• ROLLS •

GLUED SCREED

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Spray extraction *according to point 6.1. ☞ NO !



(To support the stain removal in partial areas while using only small amounts of moisture; the individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory)

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Object routine: Drying time hardly ever less than 20 hours without inspection!
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LOOP CARPET, COMBINATION LOOP/VELOURS, FLAT WEAVE PATTERN

• IN TILES- / MODULE FORM •

GLUED SCREED

- The construction phase *according to point 2.
- Preventive care *according to point 3.

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(To support the stain removal in partial areas while using only small amounts of moisture; the individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory)

Spray extraction *according to point 6.1. ☞ NO !



(To support the stain removal in partial areas while using only small amounts of moisture; the individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory)



The combination process *according to point 6.2. ☞ NO !



The combination process *according to point 6.2. ☞ NO !

The thermoelectric cleaning process
TEP – TOP – Clean® *according to point 6.3.

Object routine: Immediate accessibility.

Attention: Predestined for use with water-sensitive floor covering and double floor constructions, especially with recyclable tiles, boards, etc. with a high proportion of joints.

Advantages: No chemical residues; no rapid re-soiling; resource-saving due to approx. 96% savings in drinking water; economic efficiency due to the reduction of consumption costs.

The thermoelectric cleaning process
TEP – TOP – Clean® *according to point 6.3.



- No recommendation for subsequent fiber finishing *according to point 7.
- No use of steam cleaners *according to point 8.
- The selection of a textile floor covering has a direct influence on the subsequent care and cleaning.
- The working group werterhalt.org stands for sustainability *according to point 9.

VELOURS

• IN TILES- / MODULE FORM •

GLUED SCREED

- The construction phase **according to point 2.*
- Preventive care **according to point 3.*

MOISTURE-SENSITIVE UNDERFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS / INSTALLATION METHODS

AND/OR IF AFTER INTENSIVE CLEANING **NO** DRYING TIME OF AT LEAST 12 HOURS WITHOUT WALKING ON IS POSSIBLE!

- The construction phase **according to point 2.*
- Preventive care **according to point 3.*

THE DAILY MAINTENANCE CLEANING **according to point 4.*

- Brush vacuum cleaning **according to point 4.1.*
- Stain treatment **according to point 4.2.*

- Brush vacuum cleaning **according to point 4.1.*
- Stain treatment **according to point 4.2.*

INTERIM CLEANING **according to point 5.*

(carried out by a qualified specialist company)

- Cleaning with prefabricated foam **according to point 5.1.*

- Cleaning with prefabricated foam **according to point 5.1.*



Powder cleaning **according to point 5.2.*
☞ NO !



Powder cleaning **according to point 5.2.*
☞ NO !

- Pad cleaning **according to point 5.3.*

- Pad cleaning **according to point 5.3.*

THE BASIC OR INTENSIVE CLEANING **according to point 6.*

(carried out at least once a year by a qualified specialist company)

Spray extraction **according to point 6.1.* ☞ NO !

Spray extraction **according to point 6.1.* ☞ NO !



(To support the stain removal in partial areas while using only small amounts of moisture; the individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory)



(To support the stain removal in partial areas while using only small amounts of moisture; the individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory)



The combination process
**according to point 6.2.* ☞ NO !



The combination process
**according to point 6.2.* ☞ NO !

The thermoelectric cleaning process
TEP – TOP – Clean® **according to point 6.3.*

The thermoelectric cleaning process
TEP – TOP – Clean® **according to point 6.3.*

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- No recommendation for subsequent fiber finishing **according to point 7.*
- No use of steam cleaners **according to point 8.*
- The selection of a textile floor covering has a direct influence on the subsequent care and cleaning.
- The working group werterhalt.org stands for sustainability **according to point 9.*

NEEDLE FLEECE

• IN TILES- / MODULE FORM •

GLUED SCREED

- The construction phase *according to point 2.
- Preventive care *according to point 3.

MOISTURE-SENSITIVE UNDERFLOOR CONSTRUCTIONS / INSTALLATION METHODS

AND/OR IF AFTER INTENSIVE CLEANING **NO** DRYING TIME OF AT LEAST 12 HOURS WITHOUT WALKING ON IS POSSIBLE!

- The construction phase *according to point 2.
- Preventive care *according to point 3.

THE DAILY MAINTENANCE CLEANING *according to point 4.

- Brush vacuum cleaning *according to point 4.1.
- Stain treatment *according to point 4.2.

- Brush vacuum cleaning *according to point 4.1.
- Stain treatment *according to point 4.2.

INTERIM CLEANING *according to point 5.

(carried out by a qualified specialist company)

- Cleaning with prefabricated foam *according to point 5.1.

- Cleaning with prefabricated foam *according to point 5.1.



Powder cleaning *according to point 5.2.
☞ NO !



Powder cleaning *according to point 5.2.
☞ NO !

- Pad cleaning *according to point 5.3.

- Pad cleaning *according to point 5.3.

THE BASIC OR INTENSIVE CLEANING *according to point 6.

(carried out at least once a year by a qualified specialist company)

Spray extraction *according to point 6.1. ☞ NO !

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(To support the stain removal in partial areas while using only small amounts of moisture; the individual approval by the manufacturer is mandatory)



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The combination process *according to point 6.2. ☞ NO !



The combination process *according to point 6.2. ☞ NO !

The thermoelectric cleaning process
TEP – TOP – Clean® *according to point 6.3.

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