

Needled Carpets

Cleaning and Maintenance

FINDEISEN needled carpets are particularly wear-resistant. The optical sensitivity to visible soiling also plays an important part where this is concerned. With textile floor coverings it is, in fact, just as important as their wear-resistance properties. The sensitivity to visible soiling does not only depend on the colour and pattern, but also on the construction. Light colours hide the dirt less than darker colours and must, therefore, be cleaned more frequently.

For heavily used floor spaces, needled carpets with a high proportion of coarse fibres have stood the test of time especially well. The combination of coarse and fine fibres makes soil particles in various conditions of aggregation less visible as the case might be with other carpets.

Needled carpets are also especially easy to care for and clean to their best advantage and, accordingly so, are extremely economical.

The following cleaning and maintenance instructions base on the experience of Findeisen GMBH, on the requirements of RAL 991 A3 (issue 2005-1), and the rules of the AWT/FDT(r) working group (issue 2010-3).

The indications in these instructions are only applicable to our carpets.

1. Cleaning at the End of the Construction Works

At the end of the installation and/or renovation works, it is recommended to perform a professional final cleaning. For this, remove the worst of the dirt by thoroughly brush-vacuuming the carpet. The dirt and dust that have penetrated more deeply in the carpet should be removed using a contra-rotating double-brush machine with dirt collecting boxes. The dust is directly collected in two boxes that are fitted on both ends in front of the brushes.

Steps exceeding this measure are not part of a cleaning at the end of the construction works, this type of cleaning only being defined as a dry removal of coarse and fine dirt.

Never perform a wet-cleaning, since, otherwise, the moisture entering the carpet makes the fine

construction dust clot, such clots being very difficult to remove.

In case the here described type of cleaning is not sufficient to make the carpet look perfect, contact a qualified specialist company for further cleaning measures.

2. Regular Cleaning

With proper prevention and care, due to the optimum visual cleaning-related characteristics of FINDEISEN needled carpets, intensive cleaning can be delayed for a very long time!

This includes realizing that FINDEISEN needled carpets should not be expected to function directly as a doormat in critical areas, i. e. in critical zones special doormats/dirt-absorbing carpets should be provided for.

Entrance zones and transition points from other floor coverings should, therefore, be fashioned as textile soil-collecting areas in order to avoid to a great extent bringing in soiling by moist pigment or wax-containing care products.

The soil absorbing capacity of soil collecting areas should be maintained regularly. Correctly designed and dimensioned soil-collecting areas are capable of largely absorbing dirt and moisture walked into the building. The more dirt is collected in the entrance area, the less the maintenance expenditure of the general cleaning.

During wet-weather periods, it might be necessary to first let the carpet dry to assure the necessary removal of soil by brush vacuuming.

Regular (daily) cleaning of FINDEISEN needled carpets should, if possible, always be carried out with a brush-vacuuming machine (brush vacuum cleaner) with regard to dry mechanical removal of dirt.

3. Removal of Stains (Spot Removal)

The removal of stains (spot removal) should be part of regular cleaning to permanently conserve the impressive character of FINDEISEN needled carpets.

Spots of all kinds can best be removed, if they are treated while still as fresh as possible.

Liquid staining substances can usually be removed to a large extent by dabbing with an absorbent material (cloth, cellulose), or better yet, with a wet vacuum cleaner.

If necessary, as for spots which have dried, the residues and bound soil can be dissolved with water or carpet shampoo and spot removal by beating. Liquid spot removal agents have proven best at doing so. Spot sprays based on solvents, however, can cause disadvantages with needled non-woven. The instructions of the producer of the respective spot removal agent should, therefore, be followed exactly.

Careful removal of spots always requires thorough vacuuming out of the staining substance loosened, the best being by means of a wet vacuum cleaner.

The chemical agents applied on the carpet must, in any case, be completely removed again so as not to increase the tendency for the carpet to get soiled again. Repeated rinsing with clear water of the spot treated and appropriate vacuuming can be a good idea. This prevents new formation of spots (through soiled adhesion among other things) by remaining residues.

We definitely advise against using washing-up liquid or washing powder, as these will increase the tendency for the spot to get soiled again.

4. Intensive Cleaning (Thorough Cleaning)

Intensive cleaning means the cleaning of the entire surface of the carpet according to RAL 991 A3. It should be carried out as required by the type of building, but at least once per year. This cleaning should always be performed by a specialist company.

Intensive cleaning (thorough cleaning) includes all cleaning treatments exceeding regular cleaning. The individual methods available, however, vary as to their intensity and applications. In general, it is recommended to give preference to the method that is most material- and environment-friendly.

Intensive cleaning assures optimum removal of stains that could not be removed by regular cleaning and brings back the original use characteristics and optical effects.

Hygienic standards, such as offensive smells in old people's homes, disinfecting in hospitals, kindergartens, schools, etc., might also be the reason for cleaning the entire surface.

The pad-cleaning and dry-foam cleaning methods, as well as shampooing/spray extraction and the thermo-electric TEP-TOP-Clean method lend themselves for intensive cleaning.

The method/procedure to be selected depends on the type and condition of the floor covering installed and on the degree to which it is soiled.

Note: Brush-vacuuming and a treatment of stains according to section 3 are integral parts of all the intensive cleaning methods described hereafter.

4.1 Powder Cleaning

This method cannot be used to clean FINDEISEN needled carpets.

4.2 Pad Cleaning

Pad cleaning requires a cleaning liquid to be sprayed on the carpet and be rubbed in by means of a textile pad (cushion). Thanks to a great variety of pad shapes and equipment constructions (for instance for the thermo-electric cleaning method, see 4.5), as well as methods of working, this cleaning method offers a great range of variations and applications as might be required in individual cases.

4.3 Dry-Foam Cleaning

With dry-foam cleaning, a prefabricated foam is applied and rubbed in a single operation. At the end of the time of action, the dissolved soil should be removed together with extractable residues of cleaning agent.

4.4 Shampooing/Spray Extraction

Intensive cleaning with a wet cleaning method is used for heavy soiling or considerable residues of soil or cleaning agents.

Wet cleaning requires that the laid carpet be intact and involves a drying period of at least 24 hours.

Wet cleaning by shampooing or spray extraction requires professional equipment that should only be operated by experienced individuals (cleaning specialists).

To avoid disadvantages regarding drying times, re-soiling and how the carpet lies (adhesion of adhesive), it is absolutely necessary to vacuum carefully and thoroughly, and, if need be, repeatedly without adding any more liquid, using the suction nozzle of the spray extraction equipment.

Textile floor covering installed or glued on floor heating constructions should only be cleaned with the heating being turned off so as to prevent stripes from forming.

Conductive gluing of needled carpets which has been done with black adhesives containing soot are sensitive with regard to the soot particles dissolving, and so one should always avoid drenching the needled carpet construction which can occur before you know when carrying out wet cleaning, and so the caution necessary is called for when using the shampooing and/or spray extraction method.

4.5 TEP-TOP-Clean(r) Thermoelectric Cleaning

TEP-TOP-Clean(r) is a system specially and exclusively developed to clean carpets intensively.

This method is offered by Messrs Paul Geißler GmbH.

The loose or slightly adhering soil is extracted by a counter-rotating brush vacuum cleaner. After a preliminary cleaning, an environmentally friendly enzymatic solution is evenly applied to the carpet. The proper cleaning procedure makes the soil dissolve and be absorbed by a special cleaning pad. The internal construction of the cleaning machine operating at a defined speed ensures a constant heat build-up (thermoelectric system) of approx. 30°C.

At the end, the carpet is vacuumed by means of a brush vacuum cleaner to straighten up and to parallelize the pile.

This patented method is the only intensive cleaning system certified by the TÜV/TFI and ensures proper cleaning right from the beginning.

- No chemical residues
- No rapid resoiling
- The carpet may be walked on immediately
- Resource-friendly by saving approx. 96 % of drinking water

4.6 Notes with regard to Modules (in the form of tiles and modules)

In most cases, tiles/modules are installed so that they can be removed easily.

They are installed using adhesion promoters/-dispersion binders as anti-slip systems which are sensitive to moisture.

This is why they do not allow wet cleaning. The combination of tiles/modules on e.g. raised-floor constructions is also a construction sensitive to moisture.

For tiles/modules, we recommend pad cleaning (see 4.2), dry-foam cleaning (see 4.3) or thermoelectric cleaning (see 4.5)

With these cleaning methods, the carpet will not be moistened thoroughly, but only to such an extent that, while ensuring optimum cleaning action, the anti-slip system/the adhesion promoter and, for instance, the raised-floor plates are not getting wet.

5. Special Information

Before intensively cleaning (thorough cleaning acc. to RAL 991 A3) tiles/modules, always judge the resistance to moisture of the type of installation and of the foundation, as otherwise the needled carpet may develop bubbles or bumps and/or changes in shape.

If, based on the construction data, the resistance cannot be definitely clarified, a test cleaning should be carried out on an inconspicuous spot. In addition to this, the fixing to the foundation should be checked by trying to lift the needled carpet at various spots, especially near seams, using an awl.

All FINDEISEN needled carpets can be cleaned, if the specifications described in these instructions for Cleaning and Maintenance are observed.

The instructions of the manufacturers of the cleaning and spot removal agents as well as any special regulations of the suppliers of raised floors or adhesives have to be followed also.

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