



Needled Carpets

Cleaning and Maintenance

FINETT needled carpets are particularly wear-resistant. So, maintaining them correctly can substantially reduce later expenditures for regular care and cleaning. The 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 depends not only on the colour and pattern, but also on the construction.

For heavily used floor spaces, needled carpets with a high proportion of coarse fibres have stood the test of time especially well.

The coarse fibre-structure of the surface combines a rustic appearance with the character of a textile. 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 measures have to meet the requirements of RAL 991 A 3, issue 2005-01, "Cleaning of Textile Floor Coverings".

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 that has penetrated more deeply and the dust 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. 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.

2. Regular Cleaning

With proper prevention and care, due to the visual cleaning-related characteristics of FINETT needled

carpets, intensive cleaning can be delayed for a very long time.

This includes realizing that FINETT 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 by means of thorough brush vacuuming with high-performance equipment.

Correctly designed and dimensioned soil-collecting areas are capable of absorbing up to 90 % of the 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 covering dry to assure the necessary removal of soil by brush vacuuming.

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

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 FINETT 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 beat-

ing. 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 manufacturer 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.

Repeated rinsing with clear water of the spot treated and appropriate vacuuming can be a good idea. This prevents new formation of spots (through soil 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

Intensive cleaning (thorough cleaning) includes all cleaning treatments exceeding regular cleaning. 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 and spray extraction or a combination of the latter two methods lend themselves for intensive cleaning treatments.

The selection of method/procedure 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 for FINETT 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 (e.g. for thermo-electric cleaning methods), as well as methods of working, this cleaning method offers a great range of variations and applications as might be required in individual cases.

4.4 Dry-Foam Cleaning

With dry-foam cleaning, a prefabricated foam is applied and rubbed in in a single operation. At the

end of the time of action, the dissolved soil shall 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.

The wet cleaning method requires that the laid carpet be intact and involves a longer drying period.

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, getting soiled again 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 coverings installed or glued on floor heating constructions should only be cleaned with the heating turned off so as to avoid the development of stripes.

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 it when carrying out wet cleaning, and so the caution necessary is called for when using the shampooing and/or spray extraction method.

4.5 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 wet cleaning methods are not recommended.

The combination of tiles/modules on e.g. raised-floor constructions is also a construction sensitive to moisture.

We recommend pad cleaning (see 4.2) or dry-foam cleaning (see 4.3)

With these cleaning methods, the tiles/modules will not be moistened thoroughly, but only to such an extent that, with an 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 every intensive cleaning (thorough cleaning acc. to RAL 991 A3), the resistance to moisture of the type of installation and of the foundation have to be judged, as otherwise bubbles or bumps and/or charges in shape within the needled carpet might develop.

If, based on information about the construction, the resistance cannot be definitely clarified, then test cleaning should be carried out on an inconspicuous spot. In addition to this, the fixing to the foundation should be inspected by lifting the needled carpet at various spots as a test, especially near seams, using an awl.

All FINETT 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 as well.

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