

## SM MARBLE® INSTRUCTION FOR CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF FLOORINGS

### JOBSITE PROTECTION

Immediately after installation, cover SM MARBLE® surfaces to protect them from dirt and jobsite damages: this way you will preserve the beauty of the marble surface.

### FIRST CLEANING

Once installation is completed, remove dust with a soft broom or vacuum, being careful not to scratch the surface. A first deep cleaning can be carried out with a soft cloth and neutral pH (or slightly alkaline) detergent specifically designed for marble based engineered stones. Follow the recommendations of the detergent's manufacturer. Cleaning machines are generally used for big commercial areas: make sure the abrasives of the pads or brushes are suitable for the marble surface you are cleaning. After cleaning, rinse thoroughly with water, making sure you remove any detergent residue that might diminish the brilliance and beauty of the flooring.

### DAILY CLEANING

SM MARBLE® products are mainly made of marble, and for daily cleaning we recommend the use of only neutral pH detergents for marble or marble based engineered stones. Carefully read the instructions on the detergent's label and, in doubt, perform a test on a small, inconspicuous area.

The use of acidic or highly alkaline detergents can damage the surface of the marble.

How often the cleaning has to be repeated depends on the amount of foot traffic and how quickly the floor gets dirty. Before washing the floor, clean it carefully with a soft broom or vacuum. Then wash the floor with a soft cloth using a neutral pH detergent diluted in water following the recommendations of the detergent's manufacturer.

Cleaning machines are generally used for big commercial areas: make sure the abrasives of the pads or brushes are suitable for the marble surface you are cleaning. After cleaning, thoroughly rinse with water, making sure you remove any detergent residue that might diminish the brilliance and beauty of the flooring.

## CHEMICALS TO BE AVOIDED

Acidic liquids commonly used such as vinegar, lemon, soft drinks, fruit juices, wine, etc. can erode the tiles, causing the loss of brightness of SM MARBLE® surfaces.

Avoid exposing SM MARBLE® to chemicals and solvents, especially paint removers, that might contain trichlorethane and methylene chloride. Keep solvents, acetone, alcohol, paint thinners, detergents containing bleach, laundry bluing, highly alkaline liquids such as bleach, caustic soda or oven cleaners, acids, oily soaps, descalers, markers or ink, abrasive and micro-abrasive detergents away from the surface. It is recommended, if possible, to quickly remove the substance from the surface and rinse thoroughly with water.

Avoid using any detergent not specifically designed for marble surface, especially acidic and highly alkaline determents. Finally, avoid using highly abrasive sponges that may scratch the surface.

It is recommended to use only a neutral silicone to install the quartz flooring.

## SPECIAL SURFACE PROTECTION

On the market you can find many waxes and surface treatments specifically designed for marble based engineered stones, that help to enhance the surface's brightness, to improve the resistance to pedestrian traffic or to protect the surface from a casual contact with staining liquids. These products help in protecting the surface, but don't make it stain proof: they can help in prolonging the time frame needed to take action and clean the surface from a staining liquid, but do not offer any complete protection.

## DETERGENTS TESTED AND APPROVED BY SANTAMARGHERITA R&D

Deep cleaning detergents (neutral or slightly alkaline pH):

FILA CLEANER	Fila Industria Chimica Spa
LEM 3	Bellinzoni Srl
NEUTRAL CLEANER	Faber Chimica Srl

Daily cleaning (neutral pH):

FILA CLEANER	Fila Industria Chimica Spa
HYGIENIX *	Bellinzoni Srl
NEUTRAL CLEANER*	Faber Chimica Srl

\*Slightly alkaline pH product.

Notes: LEM 3 tested at 1:10 dilution  
Fila Cleaner tested at 1:30 dilution  
Hygienix tested at 1:30 dilution  
Neutral Cleaner tested at 1:100 dilution

The detergents must be used at the dilution suggested by the manufacturer.

**IMPORTANT!** - The content of this recommendation is based on our experience. Although we strive for thoroughness and accuracy of the information we provide, SANTAMARGHERITA® this is not a warranty and we can't take any responsibility for the exactness and applicability of this document.