

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

Installation

The successful installation of floors depends not only on the quality of tiles but on a combination of factors (bedding, binding layer, expansion joints, etc.) that constitute a real system. That is why installation operations are to be considered as important as the choice of tiles. However, based on the structure and purpose of the flooring surface, the designer is still responsible for defining the correct procedure to lay the tiles and selecting the ones to be employed.

When it comes to installation operations, GRANITOGRES, PIETRE NATIVE and GRANITOKER do not differ from any other type of ceramic: either the traditional procedure envisaging cement mortar or the procedure envisaging glues and adhesives may be resorted to. Before starting the installation operations of any surface, we recommend you make sure that the stoneware batch is adequate and sufficient in terms of quantity, tone and calibration. Moreover, all necessary norms and precautions need to be implemented for the correct completion of the work (bedding preparation, composition of mortar or adhesives, maturing period, positioning expansion joints, ramming, etc.). If in case of large environments joints must be positioned at regular intervals, in small environments a small gap between the tiles and perimeter walls is sufficient: the skirting board will cover the gap and provide the finishing effect. Avoid walking on the floor for at least 2/3 days after installation. If walking on the floor is necessary, lay wooden planks on the surface. Please notice that if the tiles are installed with the traditional procedure and no additives are added to the mortar, at least one month has to elapse before the floor can be subjected to stress and operating loads. Even though GRANITOGRES, PIETRE NATIVE and GRANITOKER are very resilient materials, they can easily be shaped or perforated to install technical and sanitary systems.

Maintenance and cleaning

GRANITOGRES, PIETRE NATIVE and GRANITOKER floor and wall cladding, both in their natural and brushed or honed versions, ensure beauty, long life and resistance in time, in addition to easy maintenance. Maintenance does not require specific treatment with the exception of the following cleaning instructions.

Initial cleaning

It is normally performed once before using the floor and it is obligatorily performed after installation. Its purpose is to eliminate any trace of lime, cement or resin residues contained in the grouts used for the joints. During this phase, all the typologies of Casalgrande Padana products must be washed using a solution of hydrochloric acid (2/3 water, 1/3 acid) or similar products specially designed for this purpose, such as DETERPRIMO (Casalgrande Padana), DETERDEK (Fila), SERVICE SOLVACID (Geol), KERANET (Mapei), DELTAPLUS (Kerakoll), CEMENT REMOVER (Faber), or RAS CLINKER (Madras) (*). To prevent the acid-based product used for the initial cleaning from corroding the cement-based joint filler, we recommend you wet the floor prior to cleaning so that the joints are impregnated and thus protected from the corrosive action of the acid. If the initial cleaning is carried out after the floor has been used, before applying the acid product it is advisable to first remove any greasy or similar substances using suitable cleaning products. After cleaning, the floor must be rinsed thoroughly and the residual water collected.

(* For the Metallica series (Inox, Ferro, Nichel, Rame, Zinco Titanio) use a more diluted solution (e.g. 9 parts of water and 1 part of acid)

Routine cleaning

For everyday cleaning, simply wash the floor with water and normal cleaning products suitable for ceramic surfaces. The GRANITOGRES, PIETRE NATIVE and GRANITOKER surface is practically impervious and therefore **does not require the application of wax and/or analogous protective products which, on the contrary, should never be used**. Stoneware does not retain stains or smudges of any type. Nonetheless, persistent stains that are difficult to remove with normal cleaning may be eliminated with the appropriate use of stronger and more concentrated cleaning products, capable of removing heavier dirt and restoring the original appearance of the tiles. **In this respect, we should point out that stoneware is resistant to all chemicals, with the exception of hydrofluoric acid, which is harmful to all ceramic products.**

Polished, gloss and/or lappato surface

As it is well known, all shiny surfaces become more opaque with use. In the case of GRANITOGRES, PIETRE NATIVE and GRANITOKER, their particular technical features make this process slower than in any other natural material (marble, granite, stone...). Nonetheless, to preserve as long as possible the original brightness of the floor, it is advisable to protect the entrance to the room, especially if it is in direct communication with outdoor areas, by using a door mat that will keep dust or other abrasive substances away from the floor as much as possible.