

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 rough-fibre structure of the surface combines rustic optics with a textile character. 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.

These cleaning and maintenance instructions base on the experience of FINDEISEN GmbH, on the requirements of the latest RAL 991 A3 and the latest rules of the Arbeitskreis werterhalt.org (available at www.werterhalt.org).

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

In principle: The cleaning and maintenance of FINDEISEN needled carpets depends entirely on the usage of the carpet!

In this connection, the latest comments on the Technical Rules DIN 18365 "Floor Covering Work" (issue 09-2016, point 2.1, page 27) roughly say:

"Preconditions for the suitability of a needled carpet are a cleaning and maintenance adapted to the usage of the carpet, the provision of soil-collecting areas, and a usage-relevant colouring".

1.0 Cleaning at the End of the Construction Works

Prior to handing over the rooms to their users, the installed needled carpets must always be sufficiently protected against soiling (e. g. as it is produced during construction works).

If, nevertheless, such soiling should exist after the installation of needled carpets and prior to handing over the rooms to their users (e. g. due to construction works), these have to be removed by 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 being defined only as dry removal of coarse and fine dirt.

Never perform a wet-cleaning after the end of the construction works, 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.

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2.0 Prophylaxis

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!

Of course, this also includes realizing that FINDEISEN needled carpets should not be expected to function as a soil collector.

Entrance zones and transition points from other floor coverings (e.g. from hard floors to needled carpets) should, therefore, have a minimum length of 3 to 5 strides, so as to avoid to a great extent bringing in soilage or to ensure proper soil collection.

Soil-collecting areas should be brush-vacuumed regularly (daily), so that they themselves will not become sources of soiling (stamp-pad effect).

This stamp-pad effect may also be produced when, by unprofessionally maintaining adjoining hard floors, e.g. wax containing cleaners get on the needled carpet.

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.

3.0 Regular Cleaning

Regular dedusting and removal of dirt is an important part of an optimum cleaning programme.

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

Always use a brush vacuum cleaner with electrically driven rotating brush.

From our experience best results can be achieved by electric driven brush-vacuum cleaners with a power consumption of ± 150 Watts.

Regular cleaning with a suitable brush vacuum cleaner considerably helps to keep the appearance of a needled carpet and prolongs the life of the carpet.

Make sure to adjust the correct height of the brush and to work thoroughly.

A brush vacuum cleaner can only work efficiently if it is regularly maintained; this applies especially to the brush, the filter and the filter bag. Always use brushes adapted to the respective flooring.

Note

Pneumatically driven brushes or brushes driven by 12 volts or 24 volts do not meet the above recommendation. They can achieve higher speeds, but, according to our experience, do not produce the required cleaning action.

In practice, never use a vacuum cleaner with even floor nozzle to clean a FINDEISEN needled carpet, because an even floor nozzle does not achieve the cleaning action of the rotating brush of a brush vacuum cleaner. This is true independently from the "Carpet Cleaning Class" rewarded on the vacuum cleaner label of the EU.

4.0 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.

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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 lukewarm 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.

5.0 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) here 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, kindergardens, 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 4 are integral parts of all the intensive cleaning methods described hereafter.

5.1 Powder Cleaning

This method shall never be used for FINDEISEN needled carpets.

5.2 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).

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Thanks to a great variety of pad shapes and equipment constructions (for instance for the thermo-electric cleaning method, see 5.5), as well as methods of working, this cleaning method offers a great range of variations and applications as might be required in individual cases.

5.3 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 by means of a brush vacuum cleaner.

5.4 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.

FINDEISEN 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.

5.5 Thermoelectric Cleaning TEP-TOP-Clean®

Thermoelectric-Clean® is a system specially and exclusively developed to clean carpets intensively. This method is offered by Paul Geißler GmbH (for more details, please visit www.paul-geissler-gmbh.de).

The loose or slightly adhering soil is extracted by a counter-rotating brush vacuum cleaner.

After a preliminary treatment of stains, an enzymatic solution is evenly applied to the carpet. This 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.

The advantages of this method are:

- no chemical residues thanks to the application of an enzymatic cleaning solution
- no rapid resoiling - the carpet may be walked on immediately
- Resource-friendly by saving a significant quantity of drinking water

5.6 Notes with regard to Modules

Modules have to be installed such that they can be removed easily.

They are installed using adhesion systems that are sensitive to moisture. This is why modules do not allow wet cleaning.

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

For modules, we recommend pad cleaning (see 5.2), dry-foam cleaning (see 5.3) or thermoelectric cleaning (see 5.5).

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.

6.0 Information regarding the Room Climate

Installation materials and floor coverings and, hence, also FINDEISEN needled carpets are always designed for rooms in which the air conditions generally recommended for the comfort of human beings are lastingly fulfilled.

These include an air temperature ranging from 18 °C to approx. 22 °C (max. 26 °C) and a relative humidity ranging from 40 to 65 %.

Staying below or exceeding the a.-m. values does not only reduce the comfort of the people present in the respective room, but can also damage the carpet by (physically unavoidable) dimensional changes of the carpet rolls or modules.

For instance, when the relative air humidity always remains under the recommended value of min. 40 %, the needled carpet can get too dry, what may lead to dimensional changes (forming of open joints) in the seam areas of the respective needled carpet rolls.

The carpet manufacturer cannot be held responsible for carpet defects (such as joints forming in the seam areas of the respective needled carpet rolls) resulting from unfavourable room air conditions.

7.0 Concluding Remarks

Before intensively cleaning (thorough cleaning acc. to RAL 991 A3), always judge the resistance to moisture of the type of installation and of the substrate, 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 substrate 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.

Please note that these cleaning and maintenance instructions must be handed over to the final user (user of the flooring).

For this see also the latest comment on the Technical Rules DIN 18365 "Floor Covering Work", (issue 09-2016, point 3.1.5).