

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 and vivid colours hide the dirt less than darker colours and must, therefore, be cleaned more frequently.

Stain-resistant colour combinations prolong the necessary cleaning intervals.

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 depend entirely on the usage of the carpet!**

Every carpet, hence also a FINDEISEN needled carpet, does only look attractive for a long time, if it is cleaned and maintained correctly.

In this connection, the latest comments on the Technical Rules DIN 18365 „Floor Covering Work“ (issue 09-2016, point 2.1, page 27) say: **„Preconditions for the suitability of a needled carpet are methods of cleaning and maintenance adapted to the usage of the carpet, the provision of soil-collecting areas and a usage-relevant colouring“.**

And, in addition, under point 3.1.5, page 66: **„It is the business of the client/user to clean and maintain the carpet or have it cleaned and maintained acc. to the respective specifications of the producer of the carpet so that, acc. to appearance, use and wear, it corresponds in every respect to the intended purpose. Cleaning must neither damage the carpet nor affect the substrates.“**

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 by subsequent construction works).

We refer in this connection to the rule that the supplier is obligated to maintain a completed yet not accepted work (protection of the carpet against getting damaged by subsequent trades).

Acc. to the VOB, this is a special service to be paid for separately.

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), it has to be removed by a professional final cleaning.

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For this, remove the worst of the dirt by thoroughly brush-vacuuming the carpet. The dirt and dust that have penetrated more deeply into 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 work, 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 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.

2.0 Prophylaxis

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

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

About 80 % of the dirt are being carried in from outside on the soles of the shoes. If this dirt is not removed regularly, a sticky film will form by which new dirt will get caught.

Entrance and transition areas (e. g. from hard floors to needled carpets) should, therefore, be

provided with soil-collectors sufficiently sized to remove the respective ingress of dirt.

Well-planned soil-collecting areas absorb most of the dirt and moisture reliably before it is carried into the building and, hence, provide optimum protection for all entrance and transition areas.

The needled carpet is significantly protected from dirt and wearing.

The length of the soil-collecting system essentially contributes to reducing the quantity of dirt that enters the building.

The soil-collecting system, ideally, is 8 - 10 steps long, starting in the outside and reaching into the interior of the building.

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, for instance wax-containing cleaners get on the needled carpet.

Correctly designed and dimensioned soil-collecting areas are capable of absorbing dirt and moisture walked into the building to a large extent.

The more dirt is trapped in the entrance area, the less the maintenance costs of the general cleaning.

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

3.0 Regular Cleaning

The dust contained in the air also contributes to a large extent to soiling. Normally, it consists of small dust particles, volatilized oils, industrial and traffic emissions, smoke, pollen, skin flakes, hair or the like.

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Major part of these dirt particles contains fat and, due to its physical properties, sticks to the carpet fibre, thus favouring contact soiling.

Therefore, regular dedusting and (immediate) removal of dirt are important parts of an optimum cleaning programme.

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

Always use a brush-vacuum cleaner with electrically driven rotating brush, i. e. guaranteeing high-performance brushing and sucking.

This is the only guarantee that the dirt sticking to the carpet fibres is also removed effectively.

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

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

Though they achieve higher speeds, they, according to our experience, do not produce the required cleaning action.

Never use a vacuum cleaner with an 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.

4.0 Removal of Stains (Spot Removal)

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

Spilled liquids, normally cause visible ugly spots and should, therefore, be treated immediately.

Spots of all kinds can best be removed while still as fresh as possible.

If spots are not immediately treated and spilled liquids get treaded down, this may change the colours of the installed FINDEISEN needled carpet.

Normally, liquid staining substances should be removed to a large extent by dabbing them off 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, may cause disadvantages with needled non-woven. The instructions of the producer of the respective spot removal agent should, there, be followed exactly.

After a careful spot removal, the loosened staining substances must always be vacuumed off thoroughly, the best being by means of a handy wet vacuum cleaner.

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The chemical agents applied on the carpet must, in any case, be completely removed again, so as not to increase the tendency of 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 remaining residues from forming new stains (i. a. through soil adhesion).

We definitely advise against using washing-up liquid or washing powder, as these will increase the tendency of the spot for getting 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) includes all cleaning treatments exceeding regular cleaning. Intensive cleaning is necessary when the carpet is soiled extensively or when partial cleaning made the carpet look uneven.

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 ensures an 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 4.0 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.

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.

After a sufficient time of action and drying, the dissolved soil should be removed together with the extractable residues of cleaning agent by means of a brush vacuum cleaner.

5.4 Shampooing/Spray Extraction

Intensive cleaning by a wet cleaning method is used to remove heavy soiling or considerable residues of soil and cleaning agents.

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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 staff (cleaning specialists).

For shampooing, use single- or three-disk machines. The coaction of the shampooing solution and the rotation of the brushes makes the foam enter into the needled carpet.

The foam binds the dirt and becomes a carrier of dirt. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to extract the foam by means of wet vacuum cleaner already while shampooing. The dirty foam must never dry in the carpet.

For spray extraction the cleaning solution is sprayed into the carpet and the dirty water produced is sucked off immediately.

Subsequent extraction with clear water further reduces residues of dirt and cleaning agents.

The moisture load of the installed carpet should be as low as possible, that is, 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.

The above procedure must always be kept to in order to avoid, among other things, the following disadvantages:

- reduced adhesion of the adhesive and its negative effects on how the carpet lies and/or the dimensional stability of the installed needled carpet
- faster resoiling
- longer drying time

Excessive long wetting of the glued needled carpet must be avoided in any case, because this can be compared to „water damage“.

Often, in particular in case of spray extraction equipment of little extraction capability, large quantities of water remain in the needled carpet and, thus, in the glue areas.

A long-lasting, and thus improper, ingress of too much moisture during wet cleaning inevitably damages or at least impairs the glue bond and, thus, may lead to a removal of the carpet and/or to dimensional changes (forming of joints) in the seam areas.

Only equipment with a high suction capacity does ensure that as little as possible water remains in the carpet, so that one can expect the carpet to dry fast. The cleaning specialist should, therefore, check the moisture content of the carpet regularly with a suitable measuring instrument.

Installation on Floor-Heating

FINDEISEN needled carpets that are installed or glued on floor heating constructions should only be cleaned with the heating system being turned off, so as to prevent stripes from forming.

Advice regarding conductive gluing

Conductive gluing which has been done with black adhesive containing soot is sensitive with regard to the dissolving soot particles, and so one should always avoid drenching the needled carpet irrespective of the above instructions.

5.5 Thermoelectric Cleaning TEP-TOP-Clean®

TEP-TOP-Clean® is a system specially developed to clean carpets intensively.

This method is offered by Paul Geißler GmbH (for more details, please visit www.paul-geissler-gmbh.de).

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

Following the treatment of stains, an enzymatic solution is evenly applied to the carpet. This

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cleaning procedure makes the dirt 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 (thermo-electric system) of approx. 30 °C.

At the end, the carpet is vacuumed again by means of a brush vacuum cleaner.

The advantages of this method are:

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

5.6 Instructions regarding Removable FINDEISEN Carpets

Some FINDEISEN carpets may be installed so as to enable them to be easily removed again. This type of installation can be realized with FINDEISEN modules as well as with FINDEISEN carpet lines, provided they are marked accordingly.

For this, one uses glue systems that react sensitively to moisture. This is why wet cleaning methods (acc. to point 5.4 of these cleaning and maintenance instructions) cannot be used on such carpets.

The installation of removable carpets, for example on raised floors, is also a construction sensitive to moisture.

For the cleaning of removable FINDEISEN floorings we recommend pad cleaning (point 5.2), dry-foam cleaning (point 5.3) or thermo-electric cleaning (point 5.5).

With these cleaning methods the carpet is not drenched, but only moistened, so that an optimum cleaning effect is achieved without drenching the gluing system and the substrate.

6.0 Instructions 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 lines 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, which may lead to dimensional changes (forming of joints) in the seam areas of the respective needled carpet lines.

The carpet manufacturer cannot be held responsible for carpet defects (such as joints forming in the seam areas of the respective needled carpet lines) resulting from unsuitable 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.

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

If any faults or damages appear on our floor coverings which are attributable to non-compliance with these directives, we shall not assume any liability or warranty. Any claims of recourse in this connection shall be excluded.

The instructions of the producers of the cleaning and spot-cleaning agents as well as the specifications of the raised-floor and adhesive suppliers have to be followed also.

Be sure to demonstrably hand over our maintenance and cleaning instructions to the final user (user of the flooring) as early as possible, usefully together with the offer, but no later than on completion of the installation work.

In this connection we expressly refer to the latest comments on the Technical Rules DIN 18365 "Floor Covering Work", (09-2016 version, point 3.1.5, page 66).

With the publishing of these technical rules, all preceding technical rules in this connection become invalid.