

Armstrong Floor Products
 Armstrong DLW GmbH
 Product Information
 Stuttgarter Str. 75

D-74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen

Tel.: +49 7142 - 71 658
 Fax: +49 7142 - 71 650

Technical Information

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Characteristics of Cleaning Technology for Selection of floor coverings

Selection of the right floor covering may greatly reduce the level of effort subsequently required for routine maintenance (cleaning). Another key factor here is the visual insensitivity to dirt: with floor coverings this factor is just as important as their resistance to wear. The visual insensitivity to dirt depends on the colour, pattern and also the surface structure of the floor covering.

It is a general rule that using a soiled floor covering will result in greater wear and to possible discolouration. Floor coverings should therefore be cleaned professionally for reasons of hygiene and to maintain their value. See also the relevant cleaning recommendations of Armstrong DLW.

1 Textile floor coverings - Fibrebonded

Fibrebonded floor coverings can be cleaned and maintained very easily so that they are extremely economical. Thanks to the combination of coarse and fine fibres, dirt particles in different states of accumulation are less visible than may be the case with other textile floor coverings.

Fibrebonded floor coverings with high levels of coarse fibres prove their worth in terms of construction for areas of heavy soiling. The insensitivity to dirt largely depends on the construction, pattern and suitable colour combinations.

As regards the insensitivity to dirt of the colours used in fibrebonded floor coverings the following three groups are possible, starting with the greatest insensitivity to dirt:

insensitive		sensitive
anthracite	blue	beige
olive	dark blue	mid-grey
green	violet	light grey
dark brown	red	white

Mottled fibrebonded qualities made of different coloured fibres are advantageous in terms of insensitivity to dirt.

1.1 The invisible barrier

An anti-soiling finish additionally repels dirt and improves the removal of dirt from textile floorcoverings during cleaning/maintenance. Anti-soiling finishes are tough and ensure optimum dirt resistance and a long life, while offering an excellent long-lasting appearance with limited penetration of dust particles. They enclose every single fibre, ensuring that the dirt remains on the surface of the fibre material and is thus easy to remove. This film proves to be extremely effective, including where water, oily substances and dry dirt are concerned.

2 Resilient floorcoverings

The greatest insensitivity is offered by resilient floor coverings, which best conceal the main types of soiling from sight.

A distinction is made between:

- light-coloured dirt, e.g. dust from the road
- light-coloured footmarks and scratches
- dark-coloured dirt, e.g. heel marks
- dark marks and discolouration

Dark muted colour combinations are not sensitive to dark-coloured dirt, and light dirt combinations to light-coloured dirt. If both types of dirt occur, muted colour combinations are best.

Muted colour combinations	Dark colour combinations	Light colour combinations
Mid-grey	Anthracite	Light grey
Green	Dark blue	Beige
Brown, red	Black	Yellow

High-contrast patterned floor coverings are less sensitive than those with a less noticeable pattern. Our high-contrast marbled floor coverings are especially good here:

- random marbled designs, irrespective of the direction in which they are installed
- patterns running longitudinally in the main direction of traffic so that footmarks or heel marks are hidden from sight by the pattern

All resilient Armstrong DLW floor coverings with a smooth, delustred, slightly grained or relief-effect wear layer are easy to maintain due to their closed surface if our cleaning recommendations are observed. The basic raw material (plastic/synthetic floor coverings or linoleum) does not matter here.

Resilient floor coverings with a structured surface require slightly more effort in terms of cleaning/maintenance in comparison with flat surfaces. There will however be no problems with treatment here either if our cleaning recommendations are observed.

3 Preventative measures

Rooms on the ground floor which are accessed from the street are subject to heavier soiling. This also applies to other areas, such as the points of connection between production and office areas. For this reason Armstrong DLW floor coverings which are especially insensitive to dirt and easy to maintain should be used there.

If this is not desirable for reasons of design, preventative measures such as entrance / zonal matting or gratings should be used without fail to prevent as little dirt as possible being brought into the building. The criteria for the selection of entrance or zonal matting in terms of size, material and positioning should be tailored to the prevailing circumstances.

It is advisable for users to have to take two or three steps on such matting.