

Removing Residues of Grouting Materials

1. Cement based grouting

Cement based grouting materials represent the standard and are very commonly used. When removing cement surface residues, acid based cleaners achieve very good results. The LITHOFIN cement residue removers are concentrates that can be diluted with water and that are easy to rinse off the surface completely.

Please Note: after grouting, there are always grout residues on the surface and in the pores. Even when these films are not visible, they must be removed because they make the surface rougher and therefore more difficult to maintain.

a) on ceramics and porcelain tiles



Lithofin KF Cement Residue Remover is ideal for all interior and exterior ceramics, porcelain, quarry and terracotta surfaces. The strength of the product guarantees a fast reaction that leaves the surface clean and free of any grout residues and builders dirt's.

b) on natural stone



On acid resistant stone, such as granite, gneiss, sawn bluestone use Lithofin MN Builders' Clean.

Additional Benefit: Lithofin MN Builders' Clean removes rust discolouration and prevents the forming of new rust in ferrous stones.

Please Note: acid sensitive stones, such as marble and limestone (but also sodalities, gabbros, etc.) especially with polished or honed surfaces, can not be cleaned with acidic products. In this case, generously apply Lithofin MN Power-Clean and allow it to work for approx. 15 minutes. Then use a white nylon pad to scrub off the residues without applying any pressure.

2. Highly refined flex joints

The so-called flex joint grouting material contains a high percentage of synthetics. These synthetic particles can form fairly stubborn surface films. Use Lithofin KF Cement Residue Remover or Lithofin MN Builders' Clean diluted with water 1:4. Scrub vigorously and rinse off the surface after 5 minutes. Should a slight film remain, generously apply Lithofin KF Intensive Cleaner undiluted (diluted with water 1:3 on natural stone) and allow to work for approx. 15 minutes. Do not allow the solution to dry. Scrub again, and then remove the solution with a wet-and-dry vacuum. Immediately rinse at least twice with plenty of water.

3. Epoxy resins

Once fully cured, this grouting material is extremely hard wearing and acid resistant. It is therefore very important to work carefully and to wash off the surface after grouting. Slight surface films can be removed as follows:

- within 24 hours:** apply Lithofin KF Intensive Cleaner undiluted and allow to work for approx. 30 minutes. Scrub, then rinse with water.
- after 24 hours:** generously apply Lithofin Resin-EX, allow to work. After approx. 2 to 4 hours scrub with a rough pad, add water and scrub again. Pull the solution off the surface with a squeegee and immediately rinse with plenty of clear water.
Attention: do not apply Lithofin Resin-EX to acid sensitive surfaces.
Please Note: on so-called pavement jointing mortars that are designed to allow water seeping through, do not exceed a working time of 30 minutes. Then neutralise the product with Lithofin MN Power-Clean diluted 1:10 and rinse with plenty of clear water.

4. Silicone joints

Residues of elastic silicone joints on ceramics and natural stone can be removed with Lithofin WAX-OFF. Apply generously and allow to work for several hours. The residues will swell up and can then be mechanically removed with a spatula, a razor blade or a hard pad.



In case of discolouration around the edges of the tile, caused by unsuitable silicones, the joint must be cut out. Then apply Lithofin OIL-EX to joint and tile and cover with a piece of foil. After one day, remove the foil and remove the remaining white powder with a brush or vacuum cleaner. Allow to dry for several days and repeat procedure, if necessary. Install new joint after discolouration has been completely removed.

If you require advice or are in any way unsure about these instructions, please call our **Technical Support Line at**
AUS: (03) 8552 6000 or www.lithofin-australia.com
NZ: (9) 475 0495 or www.lithofin.co.nz

△ This information should be considered to be informal and non-binding. The products must be used according to local conditions and materials. Instructions must be read carefully and followed closely. Always test the product in an inconspicuous area prior to use. (AUS/NZ5.14ggs/5.10)

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