

# Cleaning/Environmental Maintenance Guidelines

## Metropolitan Ceramics Quarry Tile

Floor maintenance plays a critical role in the safety and durability of your floor. In order to provide you with the best possible maintenance recommendations, we consulted with Hillyard, Inc., one of the nation's leading specialists in cleaning methods and materials. After careful study, the following information has been recommended by them.

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### RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR ALL INTERIOR/EXTERIOR AREAS WHERE METROPOLITAN CERAMICS' PRODUCTS ARE INSTALLED

The secret to a successful tile maintenance program is to begin with a clean surface. It should be the responsibility of the tile installer to thoroughly clean and remove all the grout residue and the dulling film inherent in the installation process. For ease of clean up, when installing Metropolitan's XA Abrasive body or METROTREAD®, we suggest using Hillyard's Super Shine-All® undiluted. After initial cleanup, a period should be allowed to permit proper curing 28 days for maximum grout hardness. Prior to this period, it is recommended that the installer mop the floor with a temporary coating solution of a neutral chemical cleaner (such as Hillyard's Super Shine-All®), in a ratio of one part cleaner to one part water. Neutral chemical cleaners, such as Super Shine-All®, both clean and enhance the natural soil resisting character of Metropolitan Ceramics unglazed quarry tile

When construction is complete and the installation is ready for use, the surface should be cleaned with a solution of Super Shine-All® in a ratio of one cup of cleaner to one gallon of water. Pick up cleaning solution with wet vac or automatic scrubber and thoroughly rinse floor.

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### LONG TERM PROTECTION

There are many colors of grout available which can enhance a tile installation. Sand grout joints are the most vulnerable part of a tile job because of their porosity which can trap dust, dirt, grease, soap and other stains. This is especially true in kitchens, bathrooms, on patios and even foyer floor tile installations. In restaurants, particularly in the kitchen and food preparation areas, we recommend the application of a low VOC penetrating sealer (such as Aqua Mix Sealers Choice®) to the tile and grout surface to protect the grout and prevent entrapment of grease and food particles in the grout, and to make the joints easier to keep clean.

#### **Applying A Penetrating Sealer**

A penetrating sealer seals below the surface and normally won't alter the tile surface, unless it is over applied. These sealers help prevent moisture and stains from penetrating into the grout joints.

A penetrating sealer can best be applied with a sponge or squeegee over the entire surface. Avoid heavy build up on the tile, but let it soak into the grout. Wipe all traces of wetness off the surface of the tile with clean, dry absorbent rags within two to three minutes of application. You may want to apply a second coat after 24 hours.

**NOTE:** If you apply too much penetrating sealer on the tile surface, it might turn milky white. It can be removed by using Soft Scrub full strength with a nylon scrub pad.

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### **INITIAL MAINTENANCE JUST AFTER INSTALLATION**

Normally, the ceramic tile surface should be left completely free of Portland grout haze when the job is completed. If such haze remains, it can best be removed using a solution of Green Select® Bathroom Cleaner (1:6), which should be allowed to stand for 5-8 minutes. Always pre-test in an inconspicuous area for effects on the tile surface as well as the grout. Using the Green Select® Bathroom Cleaner solution and a single brush floor machine equipped with a strata grit brush, scrub in both directions and flood rinse to remove the scrubbing solution. *Continue rinsing with cold water several times to remove all traces of the scrubbing solution.*

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### **COMMERCIAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF METROPOLITAN CERAMICS' TILE FOR RESTAURANT/CAFETERIA SERVICE AND DINING AREAS**

The secret to a successful tile maintenance program is to begin with a clean surface. It should be the responsibility of the tile installer to thoroughly clean and remove all the grout residue and the dulling file inherent in the installation process. After initial cleanup, a period should be allowed to permit proper curing 28 days for maximum grout hardness. Prior to this period, it is recommended that the installer mop the floor with a temporary coating solution of a neutral chemical cleaner (such as Hillyard's Super Shine-All®), in a ratio of one part cleaner to one part water. Neutral chemical cleaners, such as Super Shine-All®, both clean and enhance the natural soiling resisting character of Metropolitan Ceramics unglazed quarry tile.

#### **Recommended Routine Maintenance:**

##### **Equipment Needed:**

Broom, Dust Pan, Clean Synthetic \* Mop and Mop Handle, Wet Floor Signs, Clean Mop Bucket and Wringer, Hillyard Green Select® Degreaser Cleaner, Swivel Scrub Brush, Wood Handle for Scrub Brush, Utility Bucket, Water Wand and Handle.

For the QUARRYBASICS XA Abrasive Series the use of a nylon/poly looped end mop (such as Wilen's Rough Rider, phone 800 325 1051 [www.continentalcommercialproducts.com](http://www.continentalcommercialproducts.com) or

Ha-Ste Manufacturing Inc.'s RuFFloor Looped End Wet Mops, phone 800 228 6677 [www.hastemops.com](http://www.hastemops.com) for closest dealer) is suggested.

### **Daily Cleaning/Mopping:**

1. Sweep entire area of floor to be cleaned with a broom. Use dust pan to pick up dirt and debris or dust mop with a properly treated dust mop.
2. Fill clean mop bucket with 4 gallons of clean, cold water and add 16 ounces of Hillyard Green Select® Degreaser Cleaner (4 oz./ gallon) to the mop bucket. (To remove grease and stubborn stains on commercial kitchen floors, scrub floor with deck brush or use a mop with Hillyard Green Select® Degreaser Cleaner add 21 ounces per gallon of cold water. Hillyard Green Select Degreaser Cleaner will remove animal fats, blood, vegetable oils and other stubborn stains found in commercial kitchens. If a NSF rated product is required; Hillyard Suprox® is rated A1, A4, and C1.
3. Place wet floor signs on area to be cleaned.
4. Dip a clean synthetic mop into the cleaning solution. Wring out the mop to the point it's well saturated, but not dripping. IMPORTANT: Do not use the kitchen mop to clean the dining area.
5. Mop a 10 x 10 ft. area in a figure 8 motion. Turn mop over as one side becomes soiled.
6. Place mop back into mop bucket, moving it up and down in the cleaning solution. Wring out excess.
7. Mop the next 10 x 10 ft. area.
8. Continue this same procedure until the entire floor is clean. Remember to change the cleaning solution as it becomes dirty.
9. Be sure to clean all corners and door jams.
10. When finished, thoroughly rinse mop, bucket and wringer with clean water. Return clean equipment to proper storage area.

At least once per week, and more often if necessary, the floor should be scrubbed with a solution of Hillyard Green Select® Degreaser Cleaner and a scrub brush. NOTE: For faster results, a single brush floor machine equipped with a scrubbing brush is recommended.

**Weekly Floor Scrubbing procedures are required for QUARRYBASICS® XA Abrasive Series in order to keep the floor clean and safe.**

### **Weekly Floor Scrubbing:**

Sweep entire area of floor to be scrubbed with a broom. Use dust pan to pick up dirt and debris. Fill a utility bucket to the two gallon mark with cold water and add eight ounces of Hillyard Green Select® Degreaser Cleaner (4 oz./ gallon dilution). Place wet floor signs on area to be scrubbed. Pour approximately one quart of the cleaning solution onto the floor. Scrub a 10 x 10 ft. area with the swivel scrub brush by applying downward pressure in a back-and-forth motion. Pay particular attention to the grout joints. After the section has been scrubbed in both directions, push the cleaning solution with the water wand (squeegee) to the nearest floor drain. NOTE: For faster results, pick up scrubbing solution with wet vac. Fill a clean mop bucket with clean water and damp mop rinse the section which has just been scrubbed. For the QUARRYBASICS XA Abrasive Series, the use of a nylon/poly looped end mop such as Wilen's Rough Rider, phone 800 325

1051 [www.continentalcommercialproducts.com](http://www.continentalcommercialproducts.com) or Ha-Ste Manufacturing Inc.'s RuFFloor Looped End Wet Mops, phone 800 228 6677 [www.hastemops.com](http://www.hastemops.com) for closest dealer is suggested. Be sure to change rinse water frequently to help ensure all residue is removed. Following the procedures outlined, continue until the entire floor has been scrubbed and rinsed.

**ABOVE ALL ELSE, REMEMBER YOU CAN'T CLEAN A FLOOR WITH DIRTY EQUIPMENT.** Rinse mop thoroughly by running clean, hot water through the mop head at the utility sink. Twist the mop in the wringer and wring out as much water as possible. Hang the mop upside down to air dry. Always rinse out mop bucket and wringer with clean water.

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### **RESIDENTIAL CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF METROPOLITAN CERAMICS UNGLAZED CERAMIC TILE**

A Metropolitan Ceramics tile floor is one of the easiest surfaces to maintain. The best maintenance program for residential ceramic floor tile consists of good dirt and abrasive grit control, early removal of accidental stains and spills, and a regular floor protection program.

Routine mopping using Hillyard's Super Shine-All® neutral cleaner diluted according to label directions will keep your Metropolitan Ceramics tile floor clean and attractive and enhance the natural soil-resisting characteristics of the tile. Normally, rinsing is not necessary, however, if the floor is extremely dirty, rinse with clean water

#### **Recommended Routine Maintenance:**

Dust mop daily to remove dust, dirt, and grit using a micro fiber dust mop like the Dry Hall Pad Dust Mop by Rubbermaid®. Routinely mop or autoscrub the surface with a neutral liquid cleaner such as Hillyard Super Shine-All®, in a ratio of one cup cleaner to three gallons of cold water. Pick up all dirty cleaning solution and allow to dry thoroughly.

#### **Stain Removal**

Although some spills can be removed using household type cleaners, periodically accidents or abuse may result in a stain that is much more difficult to remove. A guide to removing these stains is shown below: (Note, some stains, i.e., permanent ink may never be 100% removed).

#### **TYPE OF STAIN: STAIN REMOVAL AGENT:**

Blood, Coffee, Tea, Fruit Juices, Fats, Lipstick, Grease, use Hillyard Green Select® Degreaser Cleaner or Hillyard Suprox® according to label directions. If stain remains, call Hillyard Technical Service at -800-365-1555. Be cautious to never mix any cleaning agents with any compound other than water.

Inks, Colored Dyes. Writing ink can often be removed with a solution of Hillyard Super Shine-All® or Hillyard Suprox®. For water based marking ink and indelible ink, try Hillyard Suprox®. You may also contact Hillyard Technical Service at -800-365-1555 for further help with staining issues.

### **Grout Enhancement**

After a period of time you may notice your grout becoming dull and gray; thoroughly scrub your floor with Hillyard Suprox® which is a peroxide based cleaner good for cleaning tile and grout. Follow the label instructions for mixing dilution. Clean with cold water and a deck brush, paying particular attention to the grouted areas.

### **Bathroom Cleaning**

For cleaning issues associated with bathrooms you may choose to try Hillyard Green Select® Bathroom Cleaner. It is formulated to be non-toxic, phosphate free, biodegradable, and non-flammable. Contains no hazardous ingredients and is formulated with glycolic acid, the same organic acid found in sugar cane, beets and fruits. Effective cleaning removes soap film and hard water deposits from ceramic tile. Follow labeled directions.

### **The Wearing Surface**

As previously mentioned, the basic Super Shine-All® maintenance program and normal wear will work together to develop a natural patina to the surface of your Metropolitan Ceramics floor over time. If power scrubbing equipment is used, we recommend the Flo-Pac Scrub Grit Brush for aggressive scrubbing and stripping and the Flo-Pac Lustra-Buffer Brush for light cleaning and buffing. Good luck with your Metropolitan Ceramics floor. Please feel free to call our home office at 800-325-3945 or email us at [info@ironrock.com](mailto:info@ironrock.com) . For specific questions concerning the Hillyard products recommended in this guideline or for other cleaning questions not covered here, you may also contact Hillyard Technical Service at 800-365-1555.