

Cleaning and
maintenance of
Laminam slabs on
external walls/façades /

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CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF LAMINAM SLABS ON EXTERNAL WALL/FAÇADES

After the installation of surfaces on external walls/façades Laminam 3+ slabs are made in porcelain stoneware by wet grinding of clayish raw materials, granite and metamorphic, feldspar-containing rocks and ceramic pigments.

Compacted by a special shaping in compacter and sintering at 1200°C, with hybrid firing.

With single gauge square edge and with a structural reinforcement in inert material (fibreglass blanket bonded at the back).

Laminam slabs are very easy to clean and they not require special maintenance.

Thanks to the production process used (raw materials of quality and high firing temperatures), the finishing of the slabs have the features of no absorbance and, the almost nonexistent porosity give the possibility to clean the texture in a simple, fast and efficient way.

For the above reasons, the dirt is not able to penetrate into the substance of the slabs and all the stains will be removed following the indications written in this document.

Before proceeding with the cleaning operations of Laminam surfaces, it is recommendable to follow the devices indicated below in order to obtain an optimal result.

A proper cleaning values the aesthetic features of the surfaces and gives an exceptional brilliance.

It is always recommended to perform some preventive test on a small portion of the slab before using a product (if it is possible, we suggest to make this operation on a small hidden section or on a non installed slab).

The cleaning treatment must be performed in a uniform manner on the entire surface of the installed façade. In this way it is possible to prevent possible colour difference as a resulting of a different concentration of cleaning of deposited dirt on the slabs.

It is fundamental remove immediately the stains like paint, cement, grout and silicon residues.

For the cleaning of the FILO – metal collection- it is necessary to use neutral or alkaline detergents and not an acid based product.

So, for this reason, some indication described below can not be applied with Filo texture.

ORDINARY CLEANING

We recommend to realize an initial cleaning of the panels after the end of installation.

Periodic cleaning of the façade, if necessary, is at the discretion of the customer and it depends on the finishing of the slabs chosen, the climatic

conditions and the level of pollution on site.

Usually, to clean Laminam slabs you can use hot water and neutral detergents.

These products will be diluted in base of the information provided on the packaging of the same.

Routine interventions are used to remove dirt and restore the original finishing.

It is necessary avoid the using of abrasive tools like steel wool or hard brushes on the surfaces. This operation could cause indelible marks and scratches on the applied façade.

EXTRAORDINARY CLEANING

It is used for the stains and resistant residues removal.

In general we recommend to proceed performing the first cleaning with hot water and neutral detergent.

If this operation is not sufficient, it is possible to proceed in base of stains using cleaning techniques gradually stronger and the following products:

> non abrasive cleaners having a neutral PH

> slightly abrasive cleaners

- > Acids or Basics detergents (except serie of Filo)
- > Solvent- based cleaners (Filo textures excluded)

It is important to respect the information indicated in the data sheets or in the labels of products used.

Structural adhesives residues

It is important check the cleaning of every single slab at the end of the structural silicone application because, for the features of the structural adhesive products, their removal could become very difficult once hardened.

If you have structural silicone sealants residues in the installed façade you can follow the instructions indicated below:

- adhesive not yet hardened: it is important proceed with the removal of the product particles from the slabs using specific products recommended by the manufacturer of the silicone;

- adhesive that have not already completed the hardening process: you can proceed with the mechanical removal of the residues. This operation can be made with a manual abrasion but you have to pay attention to not damage the surface of the slab.

Traces of cement and epoxy products

Residues of cement, lime and cement grout can accidentally deposit on the installed façade.

They can create stains or smudges on the surface of the slabs.

This type of dirt can be removed using acid-based detergents in the time and manner specified on the label or on the technical specifications.

When you use epoxy products, it is fundamental to remove all residues before their complete drying because for the features of their components, the removal of the epoxy trace could be very difficult.

After the operation mentioned above, it is necessary make a cleaning using detergents recommended by the manufacturer of the epoxy product. Pay attention to remove all the marks.

Industrial pollution and dirt

As the years go, rain, wind, traffic, dust and industrial pollution can cause the deposition of a thin layer of dirt of Laminam surfaces.

In base of the deposited dirt, the panels can be cleaned using water and mild detergents that you usually use for the windows cleaning.

Dust, mud and fingerprints of dirty hands can easily be removed by the use of a universal household detergent.

Stains of Ink pens or graffiti

If you have a façade that is attacked by inks, spray paint or markers, it is essential to intervene as soon as possible. It is suggested to clean the area with special products such as: Diluent Nitro, Trichlorethylene or any other solvent detergent sold in the market.

Also in this case we suggest to perform some preventive tests on a small portion of the slab before starting the treatment (if it is possible make the operation on a small hidden section or on a non installed slab).

FILO CLEANING – Metallic Series:

The cleaning of FILO articles (metallic collection) must be done only with neutral detergent.

It is possible to use basic cleaning detergents (like bleach) but it is important rinse with a abundant water.

It is not allowed the use of acid products and the using of abrasive sponge or cloth.