

# Cleaning and Maintenance Manual

Façade application

# Cleaning and Maintenance

The slabs are extremely easy to clean and require no special maintenance.

Thanks to their production process (high quality raw materials and high firing temperatures), the finishes of Laminam slabs are non-absorbent and have almost no surface porosity, making cleaning easy and effective. For these reasons, dirt is not able to penetrate into the slab material.

## After-installation cleaning

It is essential that the slabs are properly cleaned after installation in order to completely remove any residues of the products used to install them.

In general, for all materials used in the application of façade systems, the supplier indicates the appropriate cleaning product and how and when it should be used to ensure its effectiveness. Failure to do so may result in the inability to completely remove the deposited residue.

As lifting systems are required to carry out the cleaning of the façade, it is suggested that the cleaning should be planned at the end of the work, while the lifting systems are still on site; cleaning activities should be carried out from top to bottom.

Particular attention should be paid to the removal of residues of silicone, MS polymer or polyurethane adhesives for ventilated façades, curtain wall and window wall systems, cement-based and silicone residues for traditional systems.

In addition to these measures, residual dust caused by the construction site must be removed.

The cleaning activity must be carried out uniformly over the whole surface of the installed façade to avoid possible colour differences resulting from different cleaning process or concentration of dirt deposited on the slabs.

## Routine cleaning

The cleaning of the façade is at the discretion of the customer and may depend on the Laminam finish chosen, the technical specifications of the building, the climatic conditions and the level of pollution in the area. As a rule, soft sponges with warm water and neutral detergents can be used to clean Laminam slabs.

## Extraordinary cleaning

Extraordinary cleaning may be necessary for the timely removal of a particularly stubborn residue. The above cleaning operations can be carried out using different types of detergent, depending on the residue to be removed. As a rule, avoid using slightly abrasive detergents or sponges on products with a glossy finish and on the Filo series.

## Filo series cleaning

Acid-based products cannot be used on the Filo series with metal finish, so the untimely removal of dried adhesives and grout residues (both cement and epoxy-based) may not always be possible. It is therefore advisable to carry out cleaning quickly after installation and grouting operations, using water and soft, clean sponges until all residues have been eliminated. Any use of acid/alkaline detergents must be carried out using solutions highly diluted in water and after a test on a hidden portion; then, they must be rinsed off promptly.

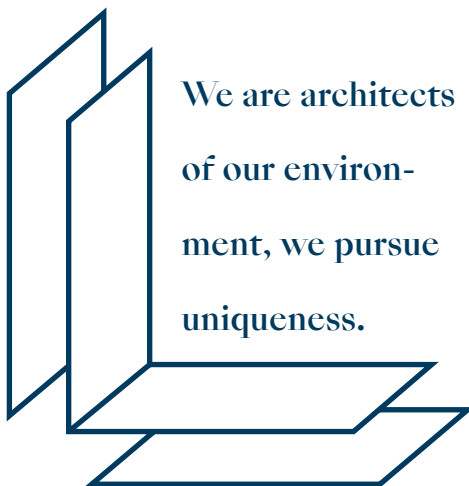
Type of stain	Product
Cement-based grouts Rust/metallic marks Calcareous residues	Acid
Epoxy grouts Graffiti	Alkaline
Silicones Felt pen inks	Solvent-based detergent
Pollution and dirt	Hot water and neutral detergents

As a rule, note that the quicker a stain is removed, the easier it is. If residues are left for a long time on surfaces, they may require the use of a specific detergent. Under no circumstances should hydrofluoric acid or products containing it be used.

The use of cement-based materials for bonding or sealing joints may require cleaning to remove salt efflorescence formed by the elimination of moisture absorbed by such materials.

These phenomena do not constitute a defect in the façade, rather may occur as a result of this application and are part of the routine cleaning of the façade.





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