



## General notes

Industrial floors, types of contamination, hygiene requirements etc. vary according to the branch of industry. The food processing industry, for example, has different floors and types of contamination than those in the metalworking industry or those used in exhibitions.

Even within a particular branch of industry, there are different purposes of use which require different cleaning methods.

Whether cleaning is performed manually or by machine is normally determined by the size of the surface area. The cleaning method used is influenced by:

- the nature of the particular branch of industry
- use within the branch of industry
- the size of the area to be cleaned
- the characteristics of the industrial floor
- the types of contamination
- the level of contamination
- the accessibility of the area to be cleaned
- the required level of hygiene

## Cleaning agents

The choice of cleaning agent and cleaning method is primarily determined by the type of contamination. Essentially, all alkaline cleaning agents are suitable, regardless of whether they are sodium or potassium hydroxide-based. Surfactants and hypochlorite additives do not normally have any negative effect on Silikal methacrylic resin coatings.

Lime spots can be removed with hydrochloric acid or acetic acid (max. 10%), for example. However, subsequent rinsing with clear water is essential.

High cleaning agent concentrations, for example those based on ammonium hydroxide/ammonium chloride or on nitric acid, may cause clouding or discolouration of the floor without actually attacking it.

Methacrylic systems react sensitively to alcohols. Caution must also be exercised with all organic solvents. Aromatic and halogen hydrocarbons must not be used (see also the data sheet “**Chemical resistance**”).

## Example of a cleaning concept

When it comes to the cleaning of industrial floors, a distinction must be made between routine cleaning and basic cleaning.

### New floors

Before use, newly applied Silikal floors should undergo basic cleaning with an alkaline basic cleaner.

Floors already in use should undergo routine cleaning, e.g. with a cleaning machine. If floors are heavily soiled, an alkaline basic cleaner can also be used for interim cleaning.

### Heavily soiled floors

Heavily soiled floors generally require intensive basic cleaning with an alkaline basic cleaner. The dosage of the basic cleaner is determined by the particular amount of contamination. Silikal industrial floors have undergone intensive testing by various cleaning agent manufacturers.

### Basic cleaning

For heavily soiled floors, we recommend basic cleaning with a suitable cleaning agent (information on cleaning agents is available from Silikal). The dosage depends on the amount of contamination. The topping must then be rinsed thoroughly with clear water.



## Tyre abrasion

Tyre abrasion, caused by forklift trucks, for example, is normally unavoidable. How the forklift trucks are handled and driven, the type of tyres and the surface texture (rough or smooth) have a critical influence on the amount of tyre abrasion. In most cases, minor tyre abrasion marks can be removed using the basic cleaner. A stain remover can be used for the partial cleaning of stubborn tyre marks. As these cleaning agents contain solvents, special attention is necessary when handling them (limit the exposure time; rinse thoroughly with clear water).

In addition to cleaning agents, this type of soiling can be avoided by using special types of tyres (light-coloured tyres) which prevent black tyre marks occurring.

The advice on use given above is based on laboratory and practical analyses. Due to the wide range of potential types of contamination and conditions of use, this information is non-binding. We recommend that you consult the manufacturer of the cleaning agent on a case-by-case basis. It is absolutely essential that cleaning agents are tested for suitability.