

terracotta

Terracotta means “baked earth” which aptly describes these distinctive tiles. The tiles are baked with clay which varies in colour creating a wide variety of colour hues, adding to the charm of a terracotta floor. Terracotta tiles are mostly a reddish brown colour with some being lighter and more yellow. Terracotta tiles are often hand made and have irregular shapes. Terracotta is non-vitreous and thus readily soaks up water and stains.

CHEMICAL COMPATIBILITIES

Acids - Terracotta tiles are safely cleaned using acid based Actichem cleaners. Strong acids such as Hydrochloric and Hydrofluoric should be avoided.

Alaklis - Terracotta can safely be cleaned with alkaline cleaners.

CLEANING

Grout Smear

Newly laid terracotta should be left for 3 - 5 days to ensure that the glue and grout is totally cured. Grout smear can be effectively removed using T&G Restore with a scrubbing action. Rinse and neutralize the treated area thoroughly as acidic residues can mark the stone surface. (Also see pre-sealing notes)

General Grime and Oils

Soil build-ups, fats and stubborn oily spots are effectively removed with T&G Cleaner Pro. If the onyx is coated with an acrylic sealer/polish then Proneutro should be used.

Mould & Mildew

Mould & mildew on terracotta is effectively removed with Chlorosan. Many stains caused by food spills and plant matter can also be removed in the same way. Sealing terracotta with a penetrating sealer will dramatically reduce future mould and mildew growth.

Lime Scale & Mineral Deposits

Hard water, mineral and chlorine deposits are effectively removed using T&G Restore. Rinse and neutralise (using a dilute solution of an alkaline or neutral cleaner) the treated area to prevent acid burns on the surface of the stone.

MAINTENANCE

Commercial & Institutions

Use Proneutro for easy and effective results in the maintenance cleaning of tiled areas in homes, hospitals and care facilities, offices, institutions etc.

Heavy Duty Cleaning

Use T&G Cleaner Pro for cleaning areas subject to heavy use and soiling such as shopping malls and schools.

Washrooms and Pools etc.

Use Refresh or Sanstrike to clean terracotta in pool areas and washrooms.

PROTECTION

It is recommended that slate flooring be sealed to minimize the risk of permanent staining and to promote cleaning efficiency. They should be sealed using either a penetrating sealer or topical/surface sealer.

Pre Grout Sealing

Apply an Actichem penetrating sealer to terracotta prior to grouting to protect the terracotta and simplify grout smear removal

Penetrating Sealer

The use of a penetrating sealer is necessary to protect terracotta from damage caused by weathering, mould and oily soils. A penetrating sealer will maintain the natural look of the tiles and will not affect the slip resistance.

Topical/Surface Sealers (flooring)

It is recommended that terracotta flooring be coated with a topical sealer and polish combination to protect the terracotta from abrasive foot traffic and staining. This will enhance the colours and produce a brilliant sheen. The floor can then be maintained using standard cleaning techniques.