

Maintenance and Cleaning Guide for MicroCement and Cement Coatings



CARE AFTER INSTALLATION

Learn how to optimize the maintenance and cleaning of your Microcement products to ensure their lasting appearance and durability. The greatest risk of scratches, tarnish, and severe dirt to Microcement occurs during the drying and hardening process in the first 4 weeks after the installation.

We recommend that during this initial period a special care is taken to prevent the Microcement from being damaged by respecting the following tips:

1. Do not step on the floor or work over the surfaces for the first 24 hours after installation. After this period, allow light pedestrian traffic only. At this stage, the material would have acquired approximately 50% of its mechanical and chemical resistance characteristics.
2. Wait 7 days before allowing more intensive traffic. At this stage, the material would have achieved 70% of its final hardness and therefore will be able to withstand greater loads.
3. During the first 48 hours, do not wash or wet the floor with any liquid products or water and do not cover the surface. Ensure proper air circulation to avoid condensation which may affect the drying process and the temperature should also be controlled so that it is above 15°C at all times.
4. After a minimum drying period of 48 hours, you can gently clean the floor but only using water. At this stage, do not add any other cleaning products. Ideally use a microfiber mop dedicated to cleaning of your Microcement.



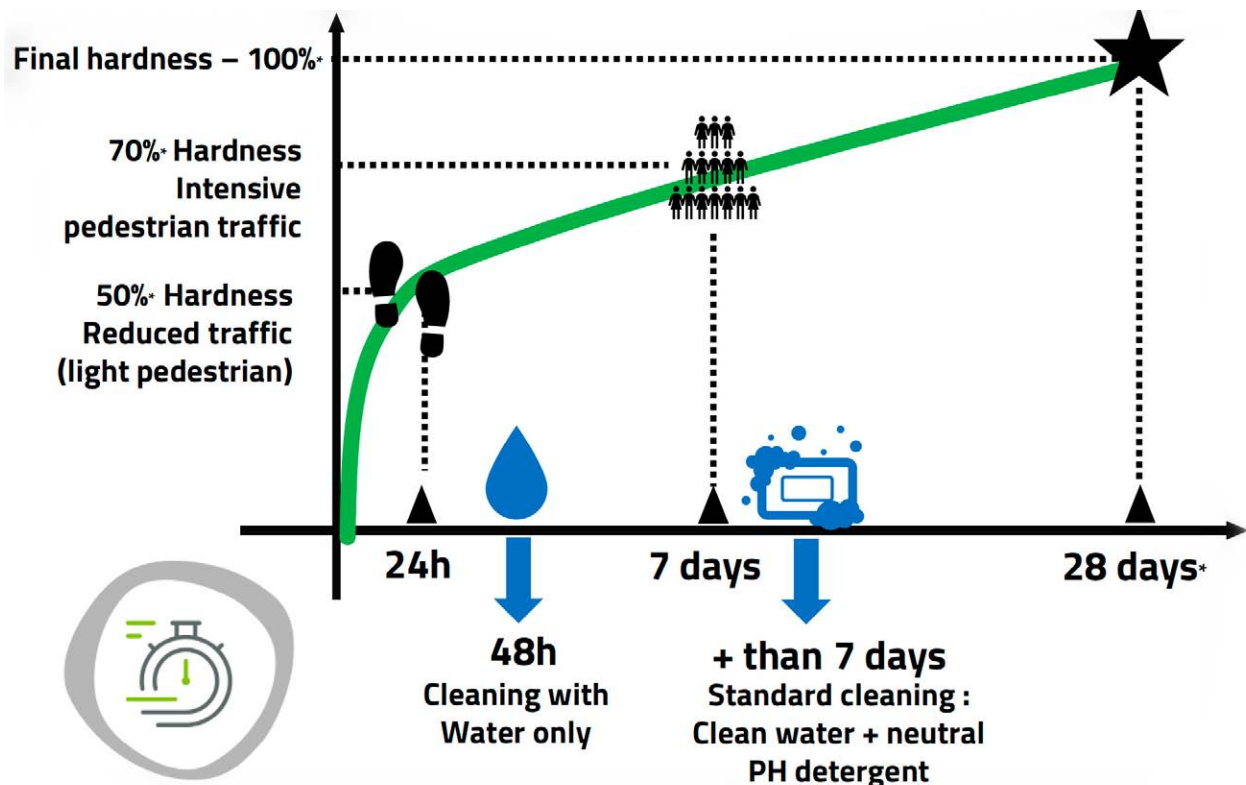
5. Once the first week has elapsed after the application of the Microcement, the standard maintenance can be applied. Clean with water + soap or neutral PH detergent.

6. It is necessary to wait for the porosity of the Microcement to close completely, and this only happens after the first seven days, so it is advisable wait before installing carpets, pots or any other objects that would disturb the ventilation of the surface.

7. During the first month, it is necessary to take a special care of the surface; avoid moving furniture or heavy objects that could scratch the Microcement.

* The times and data presented are averages considering a minimum temperature of 15°C and 55% humidity. The actual times may vary in relation with climatic criteria and specifics of each project.

DRYING & HARDENING PROCESS



IF YOU HAVE TO CONTINUE WITH THE WORK AFTER THE MICROCEMENT INSTALLATION:

After the first 72 hours, construction carpeting, and cardboard can be used with the corrugated part facing up or with a 4mm DM board (if heavy work must be carried out) so that the Microcement does not get scratched or dirty. It is necessary to ensure that the cardboard does not get wet as this could generate stains on the Microcement, in which case it is necessary to change the cardboard. Use low tack masking tape.



GENERAL INSTRUCTION

- To clean your Microcement, we recommend washing the surfaces with water (clean and hot) and soap or neutral PH detergent, using a non-abrasive microfiber mop or a sponge.
- Never scrub with abrasive products such as metal brushes or abrasive scourers. Always use two buckets of water to thoroughly wash the floor. One with clean water and another bucket to drain the dirty water. If you use just one bucket, you'll carry dirt back and forth, without cleaning the surface.
- Avoid knocks, dropping of heavy items or any sharp objects as they could damage the Microcement. Avoid contact with acid or alkaline liquids as they can generate a reaction in the material depending on their PH.
- Some products such as solvents, hydrochloric acid, bleach, chlorine, acetone, ammonia, vinegar, lemon juice or gasoline can leave stains if they remain in direct contact with the Microcement. If a spillage occurs, wipe it quickly before it dries to avoid leaving marks.
- Even fully cured, Microcement continues to be a natural mineral material as would be the case with natural stones such as Marble. Microcement is not compatible with continuous water exposure as this could erode its seal and lead to water leaks. It is advisable to avoid the formation of puddles or leaving wet objects on the surfaces for extended periods of time.

SURFACE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

In addition, it is important to follow specific maintenance and care instructions for each type of Microcement coating. The main variable for maintenance is the amount of traffic that the Microcement must withstand. The higher the traffic, the higher the frequency of maintenance. Vertical surfaces will not require as frequent maintenance as horizontal surfaces.

FOR FLOORS:



- Keep the surfaces free of grit, sand, or small stones.
- Place doormats at the entrances to stop dirt, debris, and moisture that can be tracked in on people's shoes and so reduce the risk of scratches.
- Vacuum the surfaces regularly (2/3 times a week) to avoid the accumulation of dust and grit.
- Avoid moving heavy furniture and sharp objects that can scratch the Microcement. Place protector pads (fleece) under the feet of your furniture. Periodically check the felt and remove any grains of sand that may have collected on the felt.

RESIDENTIAL / LOW TRAFFIC:

Clean 1-3 times a week with water and neutral soap or neutral pH detergent as needed.

HIGH TRAFFIC:

Wash the floor frequently (4-7 times a week) with water and neutral soap or neutral pH detergent. Wax can be added occasionally (optional).

FOR WALLS:



- Clean regularly (once a week) with water + neutral soap or neutral PH detergent.
- Clean with a non-abrasive sponge or with a damp microfiber cloth.
- Rinse with clean sponge/microfiber cloth and clean water.
- Kitchen walls near cooking or washing areas must be cleaned after use to prevent oils and other cooking products from remaining on the surface.

COUNTERTOPS:



- Clean regularly with water + neutral soap or neutral PH detergent after use to remove dirt and grime.
- Wipe up any spills of oil or liquids such as wine, juices, alcohol, etc as soon as you notice them and clean after each use.
- Do not leave pans, plates, or any hot object directly on the surface.
- Keep out of direct contact with naked flame.
- Do not chop food directly on worktops as this can scratch and weaken the protective sealer layer.

BATHROOMS AND SHOWERS:



- Clean regularly (once a week) with water + neutral soap or neutral PH detergent.
- Avoid direct contact with perfumes, cosmetic or hygiene products since they may contain aggressive chemicals. If staining occurs, clean as soon as possible with clean water.
- Avoid leaving traces of shampoo or shower gels on surfaces. Rinse with water after use.
- Ensure good ventilation, especially after use to prevent condensation and to alleviate humidity.
- To avoid build-up of lime-scale in a bath or shower a weekly maintenance is recommended. The lime-scale can be removed using white vinegar diluted in warm water (one part vinegar to ten parts of water). Spray gently and remove any deposits with a sponge or microfiber cloth. Rinse with a clean sponge or microfiber cloth and water.

EXTERIOR / OUTDOOR:



- Clean regularly (once a month) with water + neutral soap or neutral PH detergent.
- Keep surfaces free of debris, tree leaves, fruits, etc since they can cause stains.
- Avoid contact with urine from animals such as dogs or cats. If it happens, rinse or pressure-clean with water as soon as possible to avoid staining.
- Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive or aggressive products such as scouring pads, metal brushes, sandpaper, as these can scratch the surface and damage the finish.
- Avoid puddles and spills.

Long term maintenance:

If over time, the Microcement Sealer Layers (protection and impermeability) have been worn away, it is possible to carry out a surface protection renewal process. Contact us for more information.

