

1. Contractors and builders

CC Höganäs ceramic clinker tiles meet current market demands for resistance to cleaning agents and methods, while CC Höganäs jointing mortars vary in resistance to mechanical and chemical factors. Both the loadings to be expected during production and maintenance requirements should thus be carefully evaluated before the final selection of jointing materials is made. In general, factory-mixed dry-cement mortars provide stronger joints than mortars mixed on-site.

If chemical resistance is not required but high-pressure sprays are to be used, cement jointing compound can be employed. The compound should be factory-mixed with an additive of CC Höganäs FB 8, which provides a tighter, harder, superior joint with respect to the mechanical wear generated by high-pressure cleaning.

The spray pressure during such cleaning should not exceed 50 kp/m². The nozzle should be held at an angle of 45° to the surface being cleaned, about 15–20 cm from the surface.

An organic jointing compound (epoxy, polyester or furane) should be selected for areas where hot-water sprays are used and oil, fats or chemicals occur. These compounds resist aggressive cleaning agents and methods much better than cement-based jointing mortars. However, an epoxy joint should not be exposed to temperatures over 60°C for longer intervals. If there is any doubt about the choice of tiles or jointing materials, contact CC Höganäs.

2. Tile-layers

It is essential for the ceramic cladding to be as clean as possible before the joints are filled. Cement-based jointing mortars should be kept moist for about 3 days after jointing.

CC Höganäs FB 92 can then be used for final cleaning of the cement film on the tiles. FB 92 should be mixed according to the instructions on the package. Allow the cleaner to remain on the surface for a few minutes and then clean the cladding with a CC Höganäs FB 93 scrubbing pad or a scrubbing brush with a long handle. Rinse the surface with water. Repeat this treatment as required.

Certain wall tiles with synthetic glaze cannot withstand CC Höganäs FB 92 or other acid cleaning agents. Care should be observed when cleaning these tiles. It is often best to remove excess jointing compound with a trowel and then clean the tiles with a sponge and water directly after jointing. A cloth or cotton waste can be used for final cleaning.

If jointing additive FB 8 is used, it is extremely important to clean the tiles directly after jointing. Clinker tiles should be cleaned with dry mortar and a CC Höganäs FB 93 scrubbing pad; wall-tiles with a sponge and waste. CC Höganäs FB 92 can be used for final cleaning after curing is completed.

If epoxy jointing compound has been used, the tiles can be scraped clean with a rubber squeegee directly after jointing. After about 2 hours, the tiles should be cleaned again with water and a CC Höganäs FB 93 scrubber pad. If polyester or furan-based jointing material is used, final cleaning must be done directly after jointing in accordance with the instructions on the package.

3. Cleaning during construction

Before starting cleaning operations, it is important to check that the floor is fully clean, free of cement and other residual building materials.

If there is any jointing material left on the floors and walls, it should be removed with CC Höganäs FB 92. See instructions for tile-layers, above.

If delimiting agents are used, the surface must be carefully rinsed afterwards. Remember that strong acids may not be used, as they will damage cement joints.

Stains consisting of paint or organic jointing compound (epoxy, polyester or furan) can in most cases be removed by repeated treatment with paint remover.

4. Cleaning personnel

Cleaning floors with cement joints

Clinker floors require no maintenance. For treatment of unglazed rustic clinker tiles the surface lustre can be increased by applying CC Höganäs FB 95 Clinker Oil according to the instructions on the container, or by repeated cleaning with a saturated solution of soap and water. Repeat this treatment as required (about 2–3 times per year). NOTE! Do not use agents in tracks on the surface which are very difficult to remove.

Ceramic floors should normally be cleaned once a week with soap and water. Synthetic cleaning agents should be avoided, as they can damage the cement joints.

Small stains consisting of lime can be removed with CC Höganäs FB 92; see instructions for removing cement film under "2. Tile-layers". Difficult lime deposits on walls and floors resulting from hard water and/or frequent spray cleaning should be removed with delimiting agents at intervals of 2–4 weeks.

Cement-based joints should be moistened with water before applying delimiting agents. Rinse the surface carefully so that no delimiting agents remain. Fat can then be removed with alkaline cleaning agents. For best result, tiles should be delimited and fat should be removed at the same time.

Cleaning floors with resin-based joints

Dirt that can be rinsed off should be removed with water at a max. temp of 60°C.

Use high-pressure sprays whenever possible, as these are very effective for cleaning ceramic floors and walls. The following principles should be observed for high-pressure cleaning, but they also apply to other cleaning methods.

1. Cleaning agents should preferably be applied when the surface is dry, so that they come in direct contact with the dirt. Spray at a distance, so that the cleaning mixture reaches the surface in the form of a spray, not a jet. Care should be observed when using strong alkaline or acid cleaning agents.
2. Let the cleaning agents remain on the surface for about 3 minutes.
3. Rinse with clear water. Start at the highest point and work towards the drains. Work systematically and let the rinsing spray-paths overlap.