

Tips and tricks from Armstrong DLW

If you are trying to solve a tricky problem, or need the advice of our technical advisors, do not hesitate to contact our Technical Advisory Department. The team will be happy to help you.

Armstrong DLW

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Subject no. 3: Cleaning technology factors affecting the choice of floor covering

The right choice of floor covering can greatly reduce the later cost of keeping it clean. Visual dirt resistance also plays an important part – just as important, in fact, for floor coverings as their wear resistance. Visual dirt resistance is a function of colour, pattern, and also construction.

In the case of flexible floor coverings, the ones that suffer least from dirt are those which least allow the various kinds of dirt to show.

The following points should be examined: light-coloured dirt, such as dust from the road, light-coloured marks and scratches caused by shoes, and dark-coloured dirt from shoe heels or dark stains and discoloration.

Dark colours in the floor covering are less vulnerable to dark-coloured dirt, and light colours to light-coloured dirt. If both types of dirt can be expected, discrete colours will have the best effect.

<i>Discrete colours</i>	<i>Dark colours</i>	<i>Light colours</i>
mid-grey	anthracite	light grey
green	dark blue	beige
brown, red	black	yellow

Basically, patterned floor coverings with plenty of contrast show the dirt less than those with a gentle pattern. The best effect is gained from marbled patterns with plenty of contrast in them, preferably designs with no fixed direction as these can be laid any way round. Longitudinal patterns should be laid in the main walking direction, so that marks from shoes and heels are visually concealed by the pattern.

All DLW flexible floor coverings with a smoothed, matt, slightly grained, or relief-type traffic surface can be cleaned very easily because of their sealed surfaces, provided the DLW cleaning recommendations are observed.

The basic raw material, such as PVC or linoleum, does not play any great role here. Floor coverings with a deep profile surface require slightly more time and effort to clean than smooth surfaces. Ground-level areas into which people walk straight from the street are subject to greater quantities of dirt, so the floor coverings used here should be particularly impervious to dirt and easy to clean. If this is not possible for design reasons, other floor coverings can be used but precautions absolutely must be taken such as barrier mats or grilles in order to ensure that as little dirt as possible is carried into the building.

→ Careful consideration prior to making the choice of floor covering will reduce the later cost and effort required for cleaning.