

# 4

## 4. Cleaning

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### 4.1 Wet Felt products

First remove surface dust from the ceiling using a soft brush. Pencil marks, smudges etc. may be removed with an ordinary art gum eraser. An alternative method of cleaning is with a moist cloth or sponge dampened in water containing mild soap or diluted detergent. The sponge should contain as little water as possible.

The ceiling must not be made wet. After washing, the soapy film should be wiped off with a cloth or sponge lightly dampened in clean water.

Abrasive cleaners must not be used.

Ceramaguard ceilings are unaffected by moisture and can be made damp with no adverse results.

Specialist contractors offer cleaning services using chemical solutions. Where these methods are employed, it is recommended that a trial operation is first carried out so that the result and overall effect can be assessed. It is best in this case to conduct such a test in a non-critical area of the building.

### 4.2 Soft Fibre products

Armstrong Soft Fibre Ceilings can normally be easily cleaned if their surface becomes soiled. The cleaning process to be used depends upon the product type and the degree of soiling.

It is important that the interval between cleaning is not excessive, otherwise once dirt becomes ingrained, or the surface stained, cleaning is unlikely to be successful.

#### Dry Cleaning

First remove surface dust from the ceiling using a soft brush or a vacuum cleaner with a brush mouthpiece. Pencil marks, smudges etc. may be able to be removed using a 'Scotch Bright' abrasive faced foam pad, lightly rubbed across the soiled area. Glossy patches will not occur provided excessive force is not used.

#### Wet Wiping

An alternative method of cleaning is with a moist cloth or sponge dampened in water containing mild soap or diluted detergent, but abrasive cleaners must not be used. The sponge should contain as little water as possible. After washing, the soapy film should be wiped off with a cloth or sponge lightly dampened in clean water.



## Cleaning (continued)

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### 4.3 Soft Hygiene products

#### High Pressure Water

This method must be adopted with care and it is recommended that a small trial area should be initially attempted.

The following precautions must be observed to avoid damage to the tiles:

Tiles must be clipped down (Armstrong appropriate clip) using a minimum 2 pieces for 600mm dimensions and 3 pieces for 1200mm.

First apply a coating of cleaning foam, and then ensure that this is thoroughly flushed off with clean water.

The water pressure must not exceed 80 bars.

The distance of the nozzle must not be closer than 300mm from the ceiling face and the angle of application should be 45°. The application pattern of the water from the nozzle shall be fan shaped. The cutting mode must not be used.

The maximum water temperature should be 40°C and the water flow limited to 6-8 litres per minute.

In hygienic areas, only permitted cleaning detergents should be used and the pH-value of the water/detergent mixture should be between 7 and 12.

Although water penetrates into the product and around its edges, after 1-2 days the water should evaporate. The prevailing temperature and ventilation in the ceiling void are important factors in minimising this time.

This cleaning process should be limited to no more than twice a year.

## Cleaning (continued)

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### 4.4 Metal products

It is important that Armstrong metal ceilings are cleaned as soon as they become soiled otherwise once dirt becomes ingrained, or the surface stained, cleaning is unlikely to be successful.

The method employed depends upon the degree of soiling as follows:

Surface Dust - wipe with a lightly moist clean soft cloth.

Grease & Fingerprints - use a moist cloth or sponge dampened in water containing a mild soap or detergent. The sponge should contain as little water as is possible. After cleaning, the soapy film should be wiped off with a cloth or sponge lightly dampened in clean water. Excessive use of water should be avoided as it could result in moisture being retained in the joints between tiles or on the rear surface and this could hasten corrosion. For this reason the use of high pressure sprays is not recommended.

Do not use abrasive cleaners nor rigorously scrub the surface of Armstrong metal ceilings otherwise damage and/or 'glossy' patches may occur.

Specialist Cleaning - specialist contractors offer cleaning services using chemical solutions. Where these methods are employed, it is recommended that a trial operation is first carried out (in an unobtrusive area) so that the result and overall affect can be assessed.

#### **BS 8290**

Further advice and guidance regarding ceiling installations may be found in BS 8290: Part 3: 1991, "Suspended Ceilings – Code of practice for installing and maintenance."