

Effective mat maintenance.



Choosing the right mat for the job means you are halfway in developing a constructive mat plan to increase safety and the indoor climate of your premises. At least equally important is to keep the mats clean by applying the right type of maintenance. Dirty mats function as a "stamp pad" and have an opposite effect – spreading dust, dirt and moist through your building. Next to the fact that this does not represent a clean environment it can also lead to safety hazards. But how would you classify "the right type of maintenance"?

One would think that vacuum cleaning a mat is sufficient. Research from Georgia State University proves otherwise: a vacuum cleaner will only remove about 10% of the total dirt and dust from a mat. You can put this to the test yourself by taking a vacuumed mat and – preferably outside – start shaking it. You will be amazed how much dirt and dust still comes out of the mat. Conclusion: a vacuum cleaner is only useful in removing the top layer of dirt from the mat.

What does work? Well, most mat maintenance programs entail the following activities:

- **Inspection:** you need to inspect your mat(s) with regular intervals on saturation and wear & tear (for example on tears in the edges or bulging of the mats).
- **Daily cleaning:** although the effect of vacuum cleaning is limited, encourage to do it. Especially on moments that a lot of people work over the mat in a short period of time it is absolutely recommended.
- **Changing:** change a dirty mat regularly with a clean mat, this will prevent saturation.
- **Cleaning:** choose the right full cleaning solution, based on the number of people walking over the mat in a specific location. Some mats can be easily rinsed off, but a quality mat needs to be cleansed professionally to remove all of the dust and dirt and guarantee a high quality, working, mat.

If you want to make sure your mats are (and will stay) in perfect condition, it is recommended to choose a professional mat service. In that case a specialized service provider will change your dirty mat for a clean one in a fixed frequency. Additionally, the service provider performs a quality check on the dirty mat to see if it is still functional. This way the whole maintenance process will be taken out of your hands; ensuring an optimal mat performance.