

Aus Tiles

Cleaning your ceiling tiles

For internal ceiling tiles in MDF, plywood, timber veneer and solid timber, with two-pack paint, clear polish, stain or melamine finishes. Care is determined by the exposed finish, as well as the material beneath it.

Soft, smooth and non-abrasive. Use a clean microfibre cloth or a soft, smooth sponge with no scouring layer. Keep cleaning tools free of grit.

Routine cleaning

- 1 Check the finish**
Follow any care instructions supplied for your specific coating. If the finish is unknown, or is raw or stain-only, dry dust only and ask APA before using water or cleaner.
- 2 Remove loose dust**
Wipe lightly with a clean, dry, lint-free cloth. Use a very soft, dry brush for grooves and slats. Do not push dust or tools through perforations or into acoustic backing.
- 3 Test before spot cleaning**
On confirmed sealed finishes or melamine, test the cloth and diluted cleaner on a spare sample or inconspicuous area first. Let it dry and check for colour transfer, dulling or a change in sheen.
- 4 Use minimal moisture**
If water alone is insufficient, use a mild, non-abrasive, pH-neutral detergent suitable for the finish, diluted as directed. Apply it to the cloth or sponge, wring out thoroughly and wipe gently. Never spray the tile directly.
- 5 Remove residue and dry**
Wipe away cleaner residue with a second cloth barely dampened with clean water, then dry immediately with a soft cloth. Keep edges, joints, cut-outs, perforations and the tile back dry.

Do not use

- Scourers, steel wool, abrasive powders, cream cleansers, magic erasers, melamine cleaning foam or the rough side of a sponge.
- Bleach, ammonia, strong acids or alkalis, solvents, acetone, thinners or solvent-based adhesive removers unless APA confirms suitability for the exact finish.
- Steam cleaners, pressure washers or soaking. Do not scrub, sand, machine buff or use cutting compounds to remove marks.

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Care by finish & ongoing maintenance

The following guidance applies to the decorative face. A sealed or melamine face does not make the whole tile waterproof.

FINISH	CARE NOTES
Two-pack paint	Use the gentle cleaning method on page 1. Avoid concentrated rubbing on one spot, particularly on matt or satin finishes. Stop if the colour or sheen changes.
Clear polish / clear coat	Use the gentle method on page 1 where compatible with the clear coating. Do not add wax, oil, silicone polish or another coating unless APA confirms suitability.
Stained MDF, veneer or plywood	Stain alone is not proof of a protective seal. If a clear topcoat is confirmed, follow its care instructions. If unsealed or uncertain, dry dust only; contact APA about marks.
Melamine	Clean the decorative face gently and dry immediately. Keep moisture away from edges, holes and joins. Do not transfer glass-cleaner or solvent advice from other products without checking the exact melamine finish.

Protect the ceiling

Keep tiles dry. Address leaks and condensation as soon as possible. Limit prolonged direct sunlight and excessive heat. Do not use heaters or hairdryers to dry tiles.

Use safe access equipment; avoid pushing against the suspended ceiling. If removing a tile, follow APA's installation guide, support it with both hands and place it on a clean, padded surface. Refit only when fully dry.

Persistent marks or damage

Stop cleaning if a mark remains or the finish lifts, softens or transfers to the cloth. Do not sand, touch up or recoat without advice. Send APA photos, the tile code and finish details for assistance.

Contact APA

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Research references

General guidance informed by the sources below; these are not confirmation of the coating brands used on your tiles. Specific finish instructions take precedence. Sources checked 13 October 2026.

[polytec - Melamine care & maintenance](#)

[Tesrol - Two-pack polyurethane care](#)

[Timber Veneer Association of Australia - Cleaning and general care](#)

[Bord Products - Timber veneer care](#)