Cleaning

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Purposes of cleaning operations

To remove substances and materials from the surface of the mosaic that could be responsible for its deterioration.

To enable a better assessment of the mosaic’s condition by making its surface more visible.

To prepare the mosaic for mortar-based stabilization treatments.
Types of Cleaning

Cleaning without water

Cleaning with water

Removal of vegetation
Cleaning without water

Removal of accumulated sand and soil with a brush

Removal of accumulated soil in the interstices between tesserae with a dental pick
Cleaning without water

Removal of modern repair mortars with a chisel and small hammer

Removal of adhered substances with a scalpel
Cleaning without water

Removal of soil and vegetation with scissors

Removal of soil and vegetation with a brush and trowel
Cleaning with water

Removal of micro-organisms with a small brush

Area of mosaic after removal of micro-organisms
Cleaning with water

Cleaning with a small brush, sponge and water sprayer before stabilization
Removal of vegetation

Temporary removal of tesserae

Exposing roots

Removal of plant with its roots
Cleaning Tools

Scalpel with removable blades
Scalpel with fixed blade
Dental pick
Chisel and small hammer
Trowel
Pair of scissors
Flat brushes
Small dustpan and brush
Toothbrush
Fingernail brush
Large brush
Sponge
Wooden sticks
Water sprayer
Water bucket

Vacuum cleaner
MOSAIKON is a partnership of four institutions: the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Foundation, ICCROM, and ICCM. The aims of the project are to strengthen the network of professionals concerned with the conservation, restoration, maintenance, and management of mosaic heritage in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region; provide training to a variety of individuals involved in mosaics conservation and, more generally, with the management of archaeological sites and museums with mosaics; work with national and international bodies to provide a more favorable legislative, regulatory, and economic environment for the conservation of mosaics in the Mediterranean; and promote the dissemination and exchange of information.