

## **Types of Bathroom Soils**

### *Soap Scum*

This soil generally consist of dried “soap” or surfactants combined with oils or other soils. Soap scum is usually physically softer and easier to remove than mineral deposits. Showers and sink areas are the most common place surfaces soap scum will form.

Determining whether or not the soil is soap scum is accomplished by applying water to the dried soil deposits. If it softens, then it is likely soap scum, which typically can be removed by using a mild daily cleaner and a sponge or hand pad.

### *Hard water, Mineral deposits or scale*

These soils are typically build-ups of calcium or magnesium salts such as calcium carbonate. Dissolved mineral salts are presents in tap water and, over time, these mineral salts build up on surfaces frequently wetted and allowed to air dry.

Sink basins, faucets, drinking fountains, toilet bowls and urinals are common surfaces where mineral deposits can build-up. The speed of which mineral deposits form is directly dependent upon water hardness.

### *Mildew*

This soil is simply another name for tiny fungi. Surfaces difficult to clean, such as porous grout or corners and crevices, are some of the common places where mildew may be present. Mildew in restrooms is usually identifiable as darkened spots that penetrate a surface and are not easily removed.

Agitation is important in cleaning mold, and brush must be used to get into the grout area effectively. Acid-based products are effective cleaners for mildew. There is no benefit to “killing” the mold with disinfectant prior to cleaning.

Stains from mildew growth can remain even after the fungi have been killed and removed. Daily cleaning helps to control mildew from growing. For persistent stains, contact your local tile and grout supplier for product and procedure recommendations.

### *Common Soils*

These soils result from everyday activities in the restroom. From dirt tracked in on the floor to water spots on the mirrors, common soil is the simplest of the soils to be cleaned in a restroom.

Using a general purpose cleaner on the floors, walls and other surfaces easily cleans up common soil resulting from everyday use of the bathroom.