

Ecological terrace cleaning with the Belgian Terrazza TMC brushing machine

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Special thanks to the unique brush

Especially in spring and autumn, mosses and algae succeed in giving terraces and paving a green sheen. How can you clean them efficiently and keep them clean? The Belgian company Terrazza MC has developed a rotating brush that, by rotating slowly, makes short work of mosses and algae that disfigure surfaces and make them slippery.



Scrubbing water, without chemicals. This machine doesn't need more.

Hans Bauke Tuinier from Krimpen aan den IJssel has been at the helm of the Tuinier landscaping company for 20 years. The company has eight employees in the field who, according to Tuinier, work with great pleasure on garden design, renovation and maintenance. This also applies to the installation, installation and maintenance of plunge pools and swimming pools. The swimming pools - a booming business according to Tuinier - he brought under his company Wellness Tuinier three years ago. He often realizes leads that come to him with an application together with fellow landscapers. He does this throughout the Netherlands, where a dealership has played a role since the beginning of this year.

Brushing machine

The editors had contact with Hans Bauke Tuinier about a machine that his employees use to keep (hardwood) decking around swimming pools or on (roof) terraces clean and slip-free: the Terrazza TMC. His landscapers have been working with this brushing machine for five years now. Especially in spring and autumn, they take it with them to clean paving and decking made of wood and composite with algae, moss or other green deposits. Hans Bauke Tuinier says: 'Five years ago, a client asked us to clean his decking. I therefore requested a demonstration from the manufacturer of this machine. The decking became so clean and slip-free that the client also let us try the machine on his paving.'

'The result was a reason to order such a Terrazza TMC'

'The end result was an immediate reason for me to order such a Terrazza TMC. We have never had any malfunctions and I think we are still working with the same mother brush (with short bristles, ed.). If the long bristles are completely worn, you can mount new blocks between the short bristles. Steel wires are incorporated in this, but they do not leave any damage on stony material, wood or composite material. You use a lot of water and preferably carry out this work on rainy days. The loosened dirt, mixed with some water, is an excellent natural cleaning agent in the abrasive action of the brush. Finally, you rinse away the often black, remaining, dirty water with a garden hose.'



Hans Bauke Tuinier: 'We have been working with it for five years.'

Working with it

It is clear that operating this special brushing machine is not rocket science. However, according to Tuinier, you do have to learn to work with the machine. The rotating movement of the brush, just like with a parquet floor polisher, creates considerable forces. When the brush starts to rotate, the machine wants to go backwards. You steer the machine by lifting the rotating brush slightly and giving counter-pressure with your body. This requires some dexterity and it can take a while for an employee to master this. According to Tuinier, cleaning is much faster than working with a high-pressure cleaner. Tuinier: 'Scrubbing baked clinkers is a bit slower than 60 x 60 tiles. Because the brush has a diameter of over 40 cm, you can never get into all the small corners. Terrazza MC supplies a mini-brush for this, to be able to work on the corners. We also received a round brush, made of coconut material, but we have not used it yet.'



No surface damage when cleaning wooden or composite decking.

Surface-friendly

Dany Mestdag is General Manager of Terrazza MC, which is located in Kruisem, Belgium. He explains that such a cleaning kit consists of a brushing machine, a mother brush, a mini-brush, a coconut brush and handy wheels for transport. The manager calls the Terrazza TMC the most ecological and environmentally friendly brush cleaning system in the world: 'It ensures a fast result and it only uses water. Any water source is good. So no chemicals are used. You can clean almost all types of paved

surfaces with it. Thanks to the combination of long and short brush bristles, not only the surface is removed, but also the dirt between the joints.'

'The most ecological and environmentally friendly brush cleaning system in the world'

'Due to the abrasive and polishing effect of the brush, you do not damage the surface, in contrast to cleaning with high pressure. The adhesion of new dirt after cleaning is reduced to a minimum with this system. Renovation of terraces, paths, driveways and parking spaces with concrete or baked clinkers or of natural stone is less often necessary. This is because our unique brushes do not damage and/or wash away the material and the joints. You bring out the original colors of the original paving with it. And that the brushes are surface-friendly is most evident when treating wooden decking: affected by algae and moss, the slipperiness disappears during the treatment, which reduces the risk of slipping.'



Unique brushes

It is precisely the patented brushes that make this machine special. The machine itself is Italian, but according to Mestdag you can also mount these 17-inch brushes on other, slowly rotating machines: 'The brush on the machine we have chosen makes 2.5 rotations per second. That is not fast, but it is enough. At just over 150 revolutions per minute, you have no problems with flying stones that can damage cars or windows. Also, at this speed, there is no splashing dirt that makes walls or facades dirty. We supply the blocks on the mother brush with twelve filling plates. As the wear

progresses, you mount extra filling plates in four steps to compensate for the worn length. With that small brush you can get into the small corners. This is also handy for entrance thresholds, mailboxes and steps. In addition, you can also tackle the stubborn lichens well with this.'

The green, shorter blocks of the patented brush can be adjusted after wear.

'Good opportunities for landscapers to further expand their activities'

The extra supplied brush, which consists of coconut fibers, does not seem to be for cleaning overly sensitive surfaces. It appears to have a function in sweeping in jointing sand, but is also a handy tool for applying impregnating agents. 'As for the latter', says Mestdag, 'clients often ask their landscaper for products to prevent renewed growth after such a scrubbing. This is then an impregnating agent or a coating. You must always be careful that they do not cause stains on the surface. Liquid green Driehoek soap mixed with some linseed oil still proves to be a good means of preventing the growth of algae and mosses. With such a coconut brush on the machine and a mixture of this soap in the tank, you can easily apply it.' Nowadays, paving is laid as much as possible without joints or they use a polymer as a jointing agent to prevent weed growth. Mestdag: 'This coconut brush offers a solution to also sweep such a polymer or the jointing sand (again) into the joints of clinker paving. Traditionally, this is done with jointing sand under dry conditions. A road worker or landscaper no longer has to wait for this. With the use of this coconut brush, you even have to make the sand slightly moist to sweep it in perfectly.'



This scrubbing machine offers landscapers new opportunities in the market, according to Mestdag.

Instruction

Upon delivery of such a Terrazza TMC, the manufacturer always gives a practical training course of a few hours. In it, the employees are explained how to use the different brushes. Mestdag: 'You can even clean artificial grass with it. If that is relevant for a landscaper, we will tell you how to do it. And as the landscaper indicates in this article that you have to learn to work with it? We also practice that with the users. For example, by pressing the left handle on the handlebar, the machine tends to go backwards. With the other side of the handle you steer it more forwards and by pushing more or less on the handlebar, the scrubbing machine goes left or right. The scrubbing brush meanwhile maintains the same direction of rotation.' Terrazza MC appears to produce the brushes in-house. They also supply brush solutions for wall cleaning (including cement haze), ground cover cleaning in nurseries, weed removal with the Weedee Pro Kit and there is a cleaning kit that they supply to tree and plant growers with container fields.

Terrazza MC produces different brushes for multiple purposes and sectors.

Specifications brushing machine (Terrazza C43)

- **Power:** 1,300W - 230V
- **Cable length:** 12 meters
- **Brush diameter:** 17 inches; 430 mm
- **Brush speed:** 154 rpm
- **Weight:** 41 kilos