

## TECHNICAL LEAFLET



Useful information on

# Etching

### **Non-slip surface treatment of glass staircases**

Stair steps made of glass are increasingly being used in contemporary architecture. Some of the key reasons for this are aesthetics and translucency embodied by glass as a material. Untreated glass designed for walking on tends to be slippery and therefore dangerous to walk on. It is transparent and uncomfortable to use for people who are prone to dizziness. Non-slip and matt surfaces are produced in order to minimise the smooth surface's properties and eliminate transparency. There are various surface treatments that are used. One of these is the etching process.

The properties are as follows:

### **Full-surface etching of Vitrex® "Nippon" – suitable for indoor use**

This surface etching is a pure etching and is ideal for preserving the character of the glass. The light is slightly scattered and the glass has no transparency. It has good non-slip properties. The surface can be cleaned with normal glass cleaner. Ideal for applications in indoor settings. The etching complies with the EMPA Test GS2 and DIN R11 standards.

### **Full-surface etching of Vitrex® "Swiss" – suitable for indoor and outdoor use**

The surface etching is very rough. The light is widely scattered and the glass has no transparency. It has very good non-slip properties.

The surface can be cleaned easily with soap and a brush. It can be used both indoors and outdoors. The etching complies with the EMPA Test GS2 and DIN R11 standards.

As is the case with Vitrex® etching, satin-finish or sandblasted surfaces also have anti-slip properties, but have mostly not been tested and require a great deal of cleaning.



## General information

### To be observed during the planning and construction phase

The glass must be protected from damage of any kind. It is also important to ensure that no silicone traces, label marks etc. can get onto the etched surfaces. Furthermore, the same precautions apply as when installing non-etched glass. Static requirements must always be clarified in detail and in accordance with the intended use.

### Initial cleaning

If the walk-on glass panes have been professionally installed and the precautionary rules have been observed during the construction phase, no special requirements apply. The same instructions apply as in the "Regular maintenance" section.

### Regular maintenance

The original "Vitrex® Swiss & Vitrex® Nippon" are etchings with officially tested slip resistance and light transmission (EMPA/bfu S-2). In general, etched surfaces can be easily cleaned with conventional soapy water using cleaning rags and/or brushes.

Never use abrasive or corrosive products, razor blades, scrapers, scratching tools or similar! Steam cleaners can be used, being mindful of the silicone seals (steam temperature). It is advisable to always clean the entire glass surface (not at specific points) and make sure that no residues are left behind.