

## GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Although Vinyl floors are durable, all floor coverings require some care to look their best and many problems can be prevented before they occur. The type and frequency of traffic on your floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed. The type of floor and even the color will also have some bearing on how much care may be necessary. For example, solid color floors will visually show scuffs, scratches, dirt and general wear to staining to degree than multi-colors of chips or patterns. Of course, white or light colors will visually show staining to a greater degree than darker colors. For this reason, solid color and white floors should receive special attention in regard to preventative maintenance and amount of care provided. Good judgment when choosing the type and style of floor will help prevent maintenance problems before the floor is even installed!

Here are the proper steps for maintaining your Vinyl floor:

1. All traffic and furniture should stay off the floor for at least 24 hours to allow the adhesive to dry. Do not wash any installation for 48 hours.
2. In order to prevent indentation and scratches, provide glass, plastic or other non-staining cups with flat under surfaces not less than 2" in width for legs of heavy furniture or appliance. Equip swiveled-type office chairs and other rolling furniture with broad surface non-staining casters at least 2" in diameter. Remove small diameter buttons from the legs of straight chairs and replace with metal glides that have bearing surfaces not less than 1" in diameter.
3. Protect your floor against burns. Burns from the glowing end of a cigarette, matches, or other extremely hot items can damage Vinyl floors.
4. Do not flood floor, subject to frequent standing water, or use in high moisture areas. Flood mopping, hosing and frequent spills can loosen adhesive.
5. Protect your floor from tracked-in-dirt and grit particles by using non-staining mats at all outside entrances. Take time to remove any imbedded grit particles from shoe soles before entering the room. Avoid the use of rubber-backed mats, as certain rubber compounds can permanently stain vinyl. Avoid tracking in tar or asphalt from driveways, as this can also discolor vinyl. Avoid the use of stiletto heels on your floor. They can cause permanent damage. Do not use vinegar, one-step cleaner/polishes or oil soaps on Vinyl products.
6. All Vinyl floors have a good resistance to stains. They are not affected by most common household spills: however, any spill should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the floor. For information regarding the proper method or solution to use on a specific stain, contact Our Technical Department.
7. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. During peak sunlight hours, the use of the drapes or blinds is recommended. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discoloration, and excessive temperatures might cause tile expansion.
8. Do not use vinegar as a cleaning agent on vinyl Products.

### MAINTENANCE FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL FLOORS

The type frequency of traffic on your Vinyl floor will determine the frequency of maintenance needed.

The type of floor, and even the color, will have some bearing on how much care may be necessary.

Regular adherence to an effective maintenance program should include:

thorough dirt and grit regulation

prompt removal of spills and stains

protection of the floor surface

The most effective part of any floor maintenance program is the simplest: sweep, dust mop or vacuum your vinyl flooring DAILY, or more frequently if needed.

Initial Maintenance Upon Completion of the installation:

1. Sweep or vacuum thoroughly and remove any adhesive residue from surface. Mineral Spirits is fine for this.
2. Do not wash the floor for at least 48hours after installation. Lightly damp mop with a very diluted solution of Cleaner. Remove any scuffs and excessive soil by careful scrubbing. Certain types of rubber heel marks may be removed by rubbing with a cloth dampened in mineral spirits.

#### Routine Commercial Maintenance:

1. Vinyl tile has excellent durability and a history of performing well in heavy commercial installations as long as a sound maintenance program is followed. Light daily sweeping, dust mopping or vacuuming will prevent dirt and grit particles from being ground into the surface of the tile. Non-rubber, non-staining walk off mats should be used to control the amount of dirt and grit reaching the floor. The mats should be as wide as the doorway and thick enough to trap dirt and should be cleaned on a regular basis. Frequent light mopping will prevent the floor from becoming heavily soiled and will remove most spills and stains. The amount and type of traffic will dictate the frequency of washing. Wash the floor by damp mopping with Neutral Cleaner diluted with warm water.
2. If the floor receives hard use and becomes extremely dirty, as in heavily used commercial installations, an occasional scrubbing may be necessary. This can be accomplished by using a low speed power buffer with a red scrubbing-type (polyester or nylon) pad. Spray the floor with diluted Neutral Cleaner and work the solution over the floor using the buffer and the scrubbing pad. After this has been done, remove the dirty residue by damp mopping with clear water or with a wet vacuum.
3. After damp mopping or scrubbing, you can apply Matte finish following instructions on bottle or the floor may be spray buffed with Gloss finish using a white polishing type pad to achieve the correct gloss level. See page #24. The final buffing or polishing is important not only to achieve a high gloss but also make it easier to maintain in the future.

#### Stripping:

When necessary, remove a buildup of finish by stripping the floor with Gloss & Matte Stripper, and appropriate stripping pads or brushes; damp mop or wet vacuum residue from the floor.

#### Stain Removal:

To remove stubborn spots or stains from Luxury Vinyl floors, always begin with mild cleaners such as Neutral Cleaner or Stripper. If this fails to remove stain, use mineral spirits. Do not use harsh solvents such as acetone or lacquer thinner, as these can permanently soften and damage the vinyl surface.

For extreme staining (paints, permanent markers, dyes) try applying fingernail polish remover containing acetone (not straight acetone) applied to a soft cloth and rubbing. Any damage resulting from use of pure solvents IS NOT covered by warranty. Always test stronger cleaning agents on sample pieces or in unnoticeable areas first before attempting on affected areas.

#### Scuffing & Scratching:

Although Vinyl Tiles and Planks are very resistant to scuffing and scratching, surface damage can occur with hard enough use, or if floor is improperly maintained. This is why the Finishes are required in commercial installations.