

Vinyl Composition Tile Maintenance Instructions

Following a regular and well-planned maintenance program will ensure a beautiful floor and increase its service life.

Helpful Tips

- Always use proper safety signage while working, especially during wet maintenance.
- Use walk-off mats at every entrance to help control grit and soil; clean walk-off mats regularly. We recommend mats without latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- Protect the floor with plywood or Kraft paper during construction and while moving equipment and furniture.
- Select proper non-staining furniture rests and casters; the contact area should be smooth, flat, and firmly on the floor at all times.
- After removing loose dirt and debris, use a damp mop and a properly diluted cleaner for daily maintenance. Do not use an excessive amount of liquid.
- When using disinfectants, always follow manufacturer's instructions for use to avoid slippery conditions and possible discoloration.
- Protect your floor by avoiding the use of brown and black pads, or stiff-bristled, highly abrasive brushes.

Immediately After Installation

- Newly installed flooring should not be exposed to rolling load traffic for at least 72 hours after installation to allow the adhesive to dry.
- Do not wet wash, machine scrub, or strip the floor for at least five days after installation. Excess moisture can interfere with the adhesive and/or seam treatments.
- When performing wet maintenance, always use proper signage and prohibit traffic until the floor is completely dry.
- Remove any adhesive residue with a clean, white cloth dampened with denatured alcohol.
- Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor to remove loose dust, dirt, and debris.
- Damp mop the floor with a properly diluted cleaner, like S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner.
- Apply at least two coats of a high-quality commercial floor polish, like S-480 Commercial Floor Polish to temporarily protect the floor until regular maintenance procedures can begin.
- In areas where the flooring will be exposed to heavy traffic and/or staining agents, we recommend applying 1 or 2 coats of a stain resistant sealer, like S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer, prior to the application of polish.

Preparation for Commercial Traffic



- Scrub the floor using a rotary machine or auto scrubber (300 rpm or less) with a properly diluted cleaner
 - Use a 3M® red pad, or equivalent, for a light scrub
 - Use a 3M blue pad, or equivalent, for a deep scrub
- **Thoroughly scrub the floor, passing slowly in each direction.**
- If the floor is badly soiled and/or scratched, strip it using the procedure above but use a properly diluted stripping solution in place of the cleaner.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The use of aggressive strippers such as mop-on/mop-off, no-scrub and no-rinse strippers is not recommended on tile floors less than two years old because they may affect the adhesive bond.
- Rinse the floor with fresh, clean water and allow the floor to dry.
- Apply 3 to 5 coats of high-quality floor polish, like S-480 Commercial Floor Polish.
- In areas where the flooring will be exposed to heavy traffic and/or staining agents, we recommend applying 1 or 2 coats of a stain resistant sealer, like S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer, prior to the application of polish.
- When using disinfectant/germicidal cleaners, always follow manufacturer's instructions for use to avoid slippery conditions and possible discoloration. We recommend a pH neutral disinfectant.

Sweep & Damp Mop in Areas with Light Soiling

- Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor to remove loose dust, dirt, and debris.
- Damp mop the floor with a properly diluted cleaner, like S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner, on a regular or daily basis.

Machine Scrub for Heavy Soiling and Corrective Cleaning



- When necessary, after sweeping, dust mopping or vacuuming, scrub the floor using a rotary machine or auto scrubber (300 rpm or less) with a properly diluted cleaner
 - Use a 3M® red pad, or equivalent, for a light scrub
 - Use a 3M blue pad, or equivalent, for a deep scrub
- Thoroughly scrub the floor, passing slowly in each direction
- Rinse the floor with fresh, clean water and allow the floor to dry.
- If needed, additional coats of floor polish may be applied. If there is sufficient base of polish remaining (3 to 5 coats), buff, spray buff or burnish to restore gloss.

Restorative Maintenance – Stripping Existing Floor Polish

- Mix stripping solution to the appropriate dilution, depending on floor finish buildup.
- Cordon off areas to be stripped and apply liberal amounts of solution uniformly on floor with mop.
- Let stripping solution soak for the appropriate amount of time recommended by the stripper manufacturer.
- Keep areas to be stripped wet. Rewet if necessary.
- Machine scrub the floor (300 rpm or less) with a 3M blue pad or equivalent to break up the polish film. Do not allow stripping solution to dry on the floor.
- Remove dirty stripping solution with a wet vacuum or mop.
- Rinse the floor with fresh, clean water and allow the floor to dry.
- Apply 3 to 5 coats of high-quality floor polish, like S-480 Commercial Floor Polish.
- In areas where the flooring will be exposed to heavy traffic and/or staining agents, we recommend applying 1 or 2 coats of a stain resistant sealer, like S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer, prior to the application of polish.
- When using disinfectant/germicidal cleaners, always follow manufacturer's instructions for use to avoid slippery conditions and possible discoloration. We recommend a pH neutral disinfectant.

FEATURE TILE™: Like solid-colored floors of any composition, shows scratches and soiling more readily than patterned materials. They have been designed for use as decorative bands, borders and spot accent colors in combination with VCT products. Feature Tile is not suitable for us as an overall floor color and is not recommended for this use. When first installed, the plain-colored surface may reveal a light dusty or powdery film and some directional surface markings. These are common to the production of this type of product, but the markings will be eliminated with regular cleaning and polishing, and they will not affect the performance of the floor.

STONETEX®: Although Stonetex presents a monolithic or solid-colored image, the speckled pattern enables it to look better longer than Feature Tile or other non-patterned vinyl composition tile. Stonetex may require more frequent maintenance than a typical vinyl composition tile with a more prominent pattern.

We recommend using the following accessories and equipment as part of a regular and well-planned maintenance program to ensure a beautiful floor and increase its service life.

- Wet mops (microfiber, cotton, synthetic blend)
- Dry mops (microfiber, rayon, polyester, acrylic)
- Polish applicators (optional)



• Use a 3M® 5100 red pad or equivalent brush or pad for a light scrub



• Use a 3M 5300 blue pad or equivalent brush or pad for a deep scrub



• S-480 Commercial Floor Polish



• S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner



• S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer

Guidelines for Floor Protection Devices

- The contact area should be smooth, slightly rounded and large enough to distribute the load evenly without damaging the floor.
- Floor contact devices should be manufactured from non-staining materials.
- Felt glides are recommended on smooth, hard surface. They must be kept clean and properly maintained.
- Nylon glides are recommended on heavily embossed or textured surfaces.
- When using rolling casters, we recommend double wheel options. To avoid damage under the casters, use a non-staining chair mat.
- Furniture, appliances, and equipment should be leveled so that all flooring protection devices rest fully and firmly on the floor.



• Slip-Over® Floor Saver from Expanded Technologies



• Flexi-Felt® Sled Base



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For more information about establishing your maintenance program, scan here.