

Forbo Floor Care - Safestep R11, Safestep R12, Safestep Aqua

Forbo Flooring Cleaning and Maintenance advice:

Forbo Step slip resistant vinyl collections are easy to clean and maintain, thanks to their highly durable PUR finish.

Initial clean before use

Newly installed floors should not be wet cleaned within 3 days of installation.

Remove all debris, dirt and dust off the floor. Vacuum clean and/or sweep the floor thoroughly then scrub with a neutral floor cleaner. For larger areas a scrubber drier or rotary machine (150-180 rpm) with a suitable brush* or a cylindrical brush machine will be most effective. Pick up dirty water with wiper and mop or wet vacuum, rinse with clean water and allow the floor to dry.

*Note: For rotary machines and scrubber driers standard brushes should be used on Safestep R11 and R12. Soft brushes should be used on Safestep Aqua. Cylindrical brush machines with equivalent brushes may be used as an alternative

Regular cleaning

The frequency of regular cleaning method will depend on the amount of traffic, soiling levels, desired appearance, and hygiene standards.

- Remove dust and loose dirt by vacuum cleaning or sweeping.

If required:

- Manual Cleaning – Scrub with a neutral floor cleaner and a suitable scrubbing brush/mop. Remove dirty water with a wiper and mop. Rinse with clean water and allow the floor to dry.
- Machine Cleaning - A neutral floor cleaner in conjunction with a combined scrubber drier or rotary machine (150-180 rpm) with a suitable brush* or a cylindrical brush machine will produce best results on larger areas. Rinse with clean water when necessary and allow the floor to dry.

***Note:** For rotary machines and scrubber driers standard brushes should be used on Safestep R11 and R12. Soft brushes should be used on Safestep Aqua. Cylindrical brush machines with equivalent brushes may be used as an alternative

Periodic maintenance

Clean the floor periodically using the manual or machine methods above. Clean heavily soiled areas with a neutral floor cleaner which should be allowed to soak on the floor for a few minutes before scrubbing. Rinse well with clean water when necessary and allow the floor to dry.

Cleaning chemicals

Note: The use of acidic or high alkaline cleaning products, degreasers, solvents and ceramic tiles cleaners or similar chemically based cleaners are not recommended for cleaning Forbo PVC and linoleum resilient floorcoverings. The use of those cleaning products may cause damage to the floorcovering and will void the product warranty.

- Cleaning products with a pH (alkalinity) 7.0 - 8.5 neutral cleaner is considered safe to use on all Forbo PVC and linoleum resilient floorcoverings.
- Mineral turps can be used to remove adhesive residue followed by rinsing with neutral detergent and water mix.
- Forbo do not recommend using any type of builder's plastic, carpet protector film, rubber underlays or corfluke to protective Forbo PVC floorcoverings because of possible plasticiser migration staining.
- Floorcovering protection prior to or post building process; Forbo recommend a non-staining, moisture and paint resistant, 1.15 mm thick paper similar as, but not restricted to Ram Board. www.ramboard.com



Best Practice: Tips for effective floor care

General advice

Protect newly laid floors

All newly laid floors should be covered and protected from all other trades during the contract with a suitable non-staining protective covering. Use protective feet on chairs and tables to reduce scratching. Castor wheels should be of soft material suitable for resilient floor coverings (according to EN425)

Use Entrance Systems

As much as 80% of dirt entering a building is brought in by foot traffic. Entrance flooring systems of an appropriate size (ideally more than 6lm) and quality should be used. Forbo [Coral](#) entrance flooring systems, are independently proven to remove and retain up to 95% of all dirt and moisture entering a building by foot traffic; reducing maintenance costs and maximising appearance retention of adjacent flooring products as well as reducing slip risk. As with any dirt removal system all entrance flooring systems should be regularly cleaned to release the dirt which has been removed.

Cleaning

- Regular cleaning is more beneficial and cost effective than occasional deep cleaning.
- Use recommended cleaning products. High quality cleaning products and equipment ensure efficient maintenance and represent only a small proportion of maintenance costs.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning products.
- Always follow the Health and Safety guidance provided.

Proper use of Floor Care Chemicals

The improper use of cleaning chemicals may caused damage and/or discolouration. Overuse or inadequate rinsing of cleaning chemicals may compromise the performance of the floor. Abrasive powders or cleansers should not be used. Do not use seals or polishes, or floor maintainers containing polish as the slip resistant properties of Step could be reduced.

Frequently Asked Questions

How often should I clean my floor?

The optimum frequency for cleaning and maintenance is determined by the way the floor is used. When producing a cleaning and maintenance schedule it is good practice to consider the situation of the floor first: e.g. is it near an entrance to the building or on an upper floor? Will it collect dry or moist soil? What level of traffic will it be subjected to? Remember that light and uni-colours may need to be cleaned more frequently.

Do I need to polish my floor?

Polish should not be applied to any Forbo Step product as the slip resistant properties may be adversely affected.

How do I remove stains?

Remove stains as soon as they are discovered. Most stains can be safely removed using a dry (paper) towel, water, detergent, white spirit or alcohol (in that order). DO NOT use highly alkaline products (ammonia, soda) or strong solvents such as acetone as they can be harmful to both people and to your floor.

Marks caused by	Removed with
Chocolate, grease, egg, coffee, juice, etc.	Neutral floor cleaner in lukewarm water
Bitumen, oil, rubber, soot	Cleaners' white spirits
Chewing-gum	Cool with cold spray or ice cubes and scrape.
Rust	Oxalic or citric acid in lukewarm water

If any doubt exists test cleaning materials on a sample piece or in an inconspicuous area.

Cleaning brushes, machine speeds and floor care products

Brushes

For rotary machines and scrubber driers standard brushes should be used on Safestep R11 and R12. Soft brushes should be used on Safestep Aqua. Cylindrical brush machines with equivalent brushes may be used as an alternative.

Machine speeds

For machine cleaning and maintenance, 150 to 180 rpm is recommended.

Recommended Floor care products

Forbo Flooring Systems recommends the use of a pH 7 (neutral) detergent such as Forbo Monel.

Other floor care products may be used on Forbo Flooring resilient floor coverings. If alternative products are to be used consult with your regular supplier

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FLOORING SYSTEMS