

General Resilient Floor Care Guidelines

SAFETY FIRST!! Safety should always be prioritized when cleaning floors. Be sure to have Safety Data Sheets available for all cleaning products used. Caution signs should be used during and after wet cleaning processes in occupied areas and foot traffic should be prevented until the floor is dry. Use slip resistant footwear when wet cleaning. Personal protective equipment, such as gloves and eye protection, should be used when handling cleaning chemicals, especially acid or alkali-based chemicals.

Never guess when it comes to cleaning floors or using cleaning products!! Always refer to and follow Forbo's product-specific Floor Care Guidelines AND the cleaning product manufacturer's guidelines prior to starting any cleaning processes.

Color Selection

The color of a floor covering can play a significant role in the apparent cleanliness of the floor. Light colors tend to show dark colored soil and dark colors tend to show light colored soil. Patterned or marbled floor coverings generally have better soil concealing characteristics than plain floor coverings. In applications where regular floor care may not be possible, the color and pattern of the floor covering will influence how long the floor will retain an acceptable appearance level between cleaning procedures. In areas where there is a higher risk of staining, a color that will help to mask potential stains should be chosen.

Ambering

Ambering is the slight yellow hue to Marmoleum when it is first removed from the packaging. This is a natural phenomenon that happens with Marmoleum and is completely normal. Linseed oil, a natural oil extracted from flax seeds and one of the main ingredients in Marmoleum is what causes this yellow hue. This very important ingredient in Marmoleum provides several unique characteristics:

- Linseed oil, along with wood flour, makes the floor naturally antistatic, repelling dust, making Marmoleum easy to clean.
- When exposed to air and light, the linseed oil oxidizes from within the Marmoleum and continues for the life of the product. This makes the material harden over time and become more durable.

As time passes, the ambering will fade as Marmoleum is exposed to light, but its unique characteristics will not. The process may take as little as a few hours in bright sunlight, but it can take longer with artificial light. Areas that are not exposed to any light will retain the yellow hue until they are exposed to light. If an area of Marmoleum is covered for an extended period, it's possible the yellow hue will reappear. Don't be alarmed – it will fade once again when it's exposed to light.

Because this is a natural occurrence in the product, there is no set time frame for the yellow hue to fade. This is not a material defect. It's actually a sign that Marmoleum is revealing its unique and valuable characteristics! Performing floor care procedures will not inhibit the process. It just takes a little bit of time and understanding what great benefits this process brings to Marmoleum! All colors of Marmoleum are subject to ambering, however it can be more noticeable in certain colors. Light blues, greens, greys, and beiges will display a more visible yellow hue than darker colors. To discover the true color of Marmoleum, follow these few simple steps:

1. Take a piece of Marmoleum and cover one half with heavy paper, cardboard, or another piece of Marmoleum.
2. Place these pieces in direct sunlight for approximately 1 hour.
3. After the time has passed, remove the cardboard or heavy material and see the visual difference first hand.

Entrance Systems

As much as 80% of dirt that makes its way into a building is tracked in on footwear. An effective entrance system can help to stop this dirt at the entryway. An entrance system should extend far enough from the entrance so that the average person will take four to ten (4 – 10) steps while on the entrance system. Ten (10) feet of an entrance system removes up to 70% of the walked-in soil and moisture. Twenty (20) feet of an entrance system removes up to 90% of the walked-in soil and moisture. It is also important that the entrance system be maintained properly in order to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose. A good entrance system will not totally prevent soil from entering, but it will substantially reduce soil and moisture from being tracked throughout the building. A quality entrance system will also make floor care easier. Forbo offers two entrance system options – Coral and Nuway. Regardless of the type of entrance system in place, it should be cleaned and cared for on a regular basis.

Petroleum and Antioxidant Staining

Some rubber products, particularly dark colored ones, like tires, casters, floor mats, and asphalt sealers that are commonly used in parking lots and walkways, contain chemicals that can permanently stain or discolor floor coverings. Although the discoloration is generally less noticeable with linoleum flooring than with vinyl flooring, precautions should always be taken in areas such as hospitals, supermarkets, or automobile showrooms where potential discoloration is a concern. For example, staining from tires can be prevented in an automobile showroom by placing a small mat under each tire. In hospitals or supermarkets, non-staining wheels should be specified for rolling equipment. All mats or rugs should also be non-staining.

General Resilient Floor Care Guidelines

Chemical Damage

All floor covering materials are subject to damage or staining from certain chemicals. For applications where damage or staining may be a concern, a flooring product that offers the best resistance to the specific chemicals involved should be selected. Chemical resistance test results in accordance with the latest version of ASTM F 925 are available for all Forbo resilient flooring products and can be found within Forbo's Technical Data Sheets. Contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services for additional information. Chemical spills should always be cleaned as soon as possible in order to prevent or minimize damage to the floor covering.

Spills

Spot clean spills as soon as possible. If necessary, rinse the area with clean cool water and allow the floor to dry thoroughly before permitting traffic. In addition to the possibility of damage or staining of the floor, safety is also a concern. Make sure all floor care personnel are aware of the potential liability associated with spills, as well as the need for immediate attention.

Scuff marks

Black heel marks can be removed using a fine nylon pad moistened with a neutral pH cleaner. Rinse thoroughly with a clean cloth and water. Allow the floor to dry fully before allowing traffic.

Repairs

Forbo flooring products are very durable, but like all flooring products, they can be damaged from abuse. For damage repair techniques specific to Forbo flooring products, contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services.

Gum

Gum can be removed with a plastic putty knife and Forbo Adhesive Remover.

Furniture and Equipment Floor Protection

All flooring surfaces are susceptible to physical damage. For example, concrete is one of the most durable flooring surfaces and it too can be scratched or cracked. For any flooring product, these marks or scratches will become more visible as they start to hold soil. The soil can be removed from these marks; however, soil will continue to collect in these areas, diminishing the overall appearance of the floor. The most common causes of physical damage are movable or rolling furniture that has insufficient or no furniture protectors, as well as sliding heavy furniture or objects across the floor. To reduce the chance of damage and to increase the overall appearance of the flooring, precautionary measures should be put in place. Newly installed floors must be protected from construction soil, traffic and damage. Floor protectors should be installed on all movable furniture. Rolling equipment should have broad, flat wheels with rounded edges and without ridges. Wheel locks should be disengaged prior to moving equipment. When moving heavy stationary objects, protecting the floor covering with sheets of Masonite or plywood is recommended. Failure to use adequate precautions may result in scratches, cuts or other severe damage to the floor covering. For stationary objects, permanent indentations may occur if the pressure exerted by the object on the floor covering exceeds the floor covering's rated capacity. For additional information on floor protection or to find a local supplier, contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services.

EPA Registered Hospital Grade Neutral Disinfectants

Hospital grade disinfectants, when mixed and used properly, will have little or no effect on the physical properties of most floor coverings. Always refer to the specific disinfectant manufacturer's guidelines for information regarding proper use.

Proper Use of Floor Care Chemicals and Cleaning Pads

The improper use of high pH cleaners and strippers may damage resilient flooring products. Frequent treatment or inadequate rinsing may cause cracking, shrinking, and/or discoloration. Marmoleum should NEVER be cleaned or stripped with high pH chemicals or highly abrasive scrub pads because permanent damage may occur. Abrasive powders or cleansers should not be used on Forbo flooring products.

CAUTION!! Always refer to and follow the recommendations in Forbo's product-specific Floor Care Guidelines prior to starting any cleaning processes. Damage is not covered under Forbo's warranty.

Floor Care Equipment

Keep all equipment clean and in good repair. Wash and rinse mops, pads, applicators, and brushes after each use. Use a dedicated mop for each procedure (i.e. one only used for cleaning, one only used for rinsing, and another only used for finish application).

CAUTION!! Always refer to and follow the recommendations in Forbo's product-specific Floor Care Guidelines prior to starting any cleaning processes. Damage is not covered under Forbo's warranty.

Forbo's Floor Care Guidelines contain additional information and are available for download at www.forboflooringNA.com. For additional information, contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services at 1-800-842-7839.