

Taking floor care to a higher degree



Project overview

Project Name	Edinboro University
Location	Edinboro PA
Description	University
Products	MCT, Marmoleum, Flotex, and Coral Entry Systems
Owner	Edinboro University
Architects	Weber Murphy Fox Earp and Deerbom Dorms Astorino Cooper Hall
Flooring contractor	Erie Contract Interiors
Housekeeping Edinboro University	Linda Hinkle, Custodial Supervisor

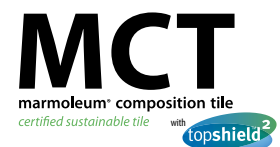
Edinboro University, Cooper Hall – MCT

College facility managers learn that knowledge is power when it comes to beautiful floors

The students who walk the hallowed halls of Edinboro University are in pursuit of knowledge. The same is true for the professionals who clean the floors in Edinboro's hallways, and who credit their superior education in floor care for the school's attractive interiors and low maintenance costs.

The 8,000 students enrolled at Edinboro are too absorbed in their books to notice that their dorm and classroom floors have a like-new appearance, even though some were installed more than a decade ago. According to the custodial team at the Pennsylvania state liberal arts university, the education they receive in proper care of their Forbo floors is a major reason that their flooring has weathered the rough and tumble of college life so successfully.

creating better environments



“When we go into a building now, we feel more confident,” said Linda Hinkle, custodial supervisor in the facilities office at the university, located just outside of Erie. This confidence came after Hinkle and other members of custodial staff participated in the Forbo Cleaning and Care Certification Program, a maintenance seminar series held at Forbo’s Hazleton Pennsylvania corporate office. “With this in-depth training, we now know the right techniques to deal with whatever comes up...and in a college dorm almost anything can happen,” Hinkle added.



Easy care is a natural concern

All this emphasis on training isn’t meant to imply that Forbo floors are harder to maintain. In fact, the opposite is true, which is a key to the flooring’s appeal for the staff at Edinboro. “The cleaning and care is so much easier,” said Hinkle, whose custodial team maintains Forbo Marmoleum, MCT and Flotex textile floor covering in six campus buildings. Hinkle’s team also maintains standard vinyl composition tile (VCT) flooring as well. “With a new VCT floor, you have to take off the manufacturer’s seal, strip it, add three coats of wax, wait 72 hours, then burnish it before it’s good to go. None of that has to be done with Marmoleum,” she noted.

Everyday cleaning is equally easy, thanks to the fact that Marmoleum doesn’t require the periodic stripping and refinishing of VCT. Basic dust mopping, neutral clean auto scrubbing and an occasional red pad spray buffing is all Marmoleum needs to keep its like-new look. “The less chemical we use, the more we like it,” Hinkle added.



Edinboro University, Earp & Deerborn dorms – Flotex

She also likes the antimicrobial, allergy-neutral and earth friendly character of her facility’s Forbo flooring, noting that college students commonly interact with a floor in a way that office dwellers do not. “A lot of students will sit on the floor while they wait for their next class,” said Hinkle, “so creating a healthy environment on the floors naturally matters more to me than it might to the average custodial person.”

Custodians coping with cuts

She also noted that the low-maintenance attributes of Marmoleum saves her staff critical work time, a precious commodity when staffing is short and government budgets are stretched nearly to their breaking point. “We can cover a lot more square footage than we could before,” said Hinkle, “and we’re able to get in and out of classrooms much faster. That means we have more time for the extra tasks we weren’t able to get to before. When you walk through the buildings, you can see how well they are



Edinboro University, Earp & Deerborn dorms – MCT

maintained, even though we are understaffed. It’s beautiful.”

There is always plenty of extra work on a college campus, particularly in dorm areas where the range of possibilities for stains and floor damage is practically infinite. Here too, Forbo training has been an invaluable help. Thanks to stain removal training received as part of the Cleaning and Care Certification program, the custodial staff has routinely removed rust, food dyes and a limitless variety of other stains. “We’ve had things we couldn’t even identify,” Hinkle said, “but that didn’t matter. They’ve all come up.” She noted that the vast majority of the stains were removed with neutral cleaning products. “Better still,” she added, “we’re able to remove any stain

without the need to strip off layers of floor finish and reapply them afterward. That’s a tremendous time savings.”

The Edinboro commitment to flooring education extends beyond the custodians to include the people who install the Forbo floors. At the college’s insistence, four of the workers at local flooring contractor Erie Contract Interiors have taken the training to become Forbo Certified Master Mechanics. Earning Master Mechanic status requires that installers complete seven full days of classroom instruction, pass a written exam and a hands-on installation test. “This isn’t just a pass/fail thing,”

“The maintenance is so much easier, the lifespan is so much longer,”

Linda Hinkle, Custodial Supervisor, Edinboro University

said Craig Wells, the company’s president. “They closely evaluate your knowledge, your skills and your attitude as well. It isn’t easy,” he said, “which is part of what makes it worth doing.”

Behind the floors: solid support

One of biggest reasons to prefer Forbo comes into play when standard floor care techniques are unable to solve a special problem. Both Linda Hinkle and Craig Wells cited the availability of technical support as a key distinction between Forbo and other flooring manufacturers. “If you run into something you need help on, Forbo always has somebody who is just a phone call away,” Wells said. “All of our installers have Tom Schildkamp on their speed dial lists.” Schildkamp, a Forbo Installation Technical Service Representative and Cleaning and Care Technician with 20 years of flooring expertise, is part of a nationwide network of service reps who make site visits, field phone support calls and do technical training for installers and customers alike. “I’ve never seen any other floor company even try to offer support this complete, much less provide it,” added Hinkle. “With the others, after installation you never hear from them again. The follow-up builds a trust in the product you’re getting. You know the people dealing with you are up front and honest.”

Given past performance, it’s no wonder that Marmoleum, MCT and Flotex are appearing on more Edinboro floors as the university builds new campus buildings and renovates existing ones. Edinboro now tells the architects to specify Marmoleum and MCT. Hinkle is also seeking to use Forbo Coral Entry Systems as the standard entryway system in Edinboro buildings.

“We’re sold on Forbo,” Hinkle stated. “The maintenance is so much easier, the lifespan is so much longer, and it looks like a million bucks.” “I could talk about Forbo forever!”

The university’s challenges:

- Maintaining attractive floors amidst the exceptional wear and tear of a busy college campus
- Keeping floors attractive in an atmosphere of smaller staffs and tighter budgets
- Coping with unique spills or damage to a facility’s flooring
- Creating an environmentally friendly atmosphere that minimizes pathogens and allergens

The Forbo solution:

- MCT, Marmoleum sheet and Flotex, backed by the maintenance knowledge in Forbo’s Cleaning and Care Certification Program
- Marmoleum, MCT and Flotex all clean without the need for floor stripping and floor finishes
- A nationwide network of technical service specialists, available for phone support, technical training or on-site assistance
- Antimicrobial, allergy neutral and 100% BioBased materials are a natural part of Marmoleum and MCT’s makeup

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Ten top reasons to choose MCT over VCT

MCT (Marmoleum Composition Tile) outperforms VCT (Vinyl Composition Tile) in many important ways. Among the most notable:

- 1. Cost savings** – from the moment of occupancy, MCT costs less to own. The advantages continue for decades through significantly lower maintenance costs
- 2. Reduced maintenance** – ready for occupancy immediately after installation, and eliminates the stripping and re-application of floor finishes required for VCT. Saves countless hours of staff time and frees you from chemical disposal worries
- 3. Anti-static** – naturally resistant to static buildup, so dust and dirt won't linger on floors to aggravate the symptoms of allergy and asthma sufferers.
- 4. Antimicrobial** – naturally resists bacterial growth on surfaces without the need to add harmful pesticides
- 5. Indentation resistant** – ten times the indentation resistance of VCT
- 6. Won't shrink** – excellent size stability over decades of use. Dirt, moisture and bacteria won't collect, as it does in the seams between shrinking VCT tiles
- 7. Quieter underfoot** – causes less hallway noise than VCT, minimizing the disruption of foot traffic through public spaces
- 8. 100% BioBased and recyclable** – created from linseed oil, pine rosin, wood flour and other natural ingredients, which naturally biodegrade into an earth friendly material safe for landfills.
- 9. More repairable** – scratches, stains, gouges and cuts are readily removable and repairable by in-house staff
- 10. Healthier for occupants** – free of the environmental toxins that leach from VCT flooring and threaten human health

Another big plus: When you specify, permanently install and maintain a minimum of 10 feet of Coral Sheet* or Nuway Entrance Systems in the main and secondary entrances of your facility, Forbo will double your manufacturer's warranty on Marmoleum and MCT products from 5 years to 10 years!

As this and other case studies have proven, MCT and Marmoleum are healthier, more economical and better for the environment. For more information go to WWW.ForboflooringNA.com

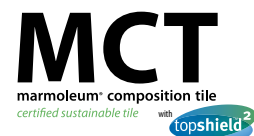
* Coral loose lay Mats not included



FLOORING SYSTEMS

North American Headquarters
Forbo Flooring Systems
8 Maplewood Drive
Humboldt Industrial Park
Hazleton, PA 18202
T: 1-800-842-7839
570-459-0771
F: 570-450-0258
email: info.na@forbo.com
www.forboflooringNA.com
www.floorcostcomparison.com

Canada
Forbo Flooring Systems
111 Westmore Drive
Toronto, ON M9V 3Y6
phone: 1-800-268-8108 (English)
1-800-567-9268 (Français)
fax: 1-877-893-4680
email: info.na@forbo.com
www.forboflooringNA.com
www.floorcostcomparison.com



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