TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Marmoleum® with Topshield2™ Slip Resistance for Operating or Procedure Rooms

Marmoleum® was not always the flooring of choice for operating or procedure rooms due to the use of some aggressive chemicals in these areas. However, with the advances from Topshield2™ and the developments of Forbo's floor care chemicals, Marmoleum® now provides the best and most sustainable solution in these areas. Marmoleum® with Topshield 2™ is the only resilient flooring designed to meet the demands of everyday use in the real world. It has naturally occurring anti-static properties, creating an environment where dirt pick up is easier. It is less prone to wear with an improved resistance to scratches and stains, and thus creating a floor that demonstrates a lasting performance over time. Unlike PUR finishes that will show wear and dirt concentration encapsulated in micro scratches over time, Marmoleum® with Topshield2™ can be refreshed and renewed, generating a new finish, turning Marmoleum® into what is probably the best performing resilient floor in the real world. Marmoleum® also provides a self-sanitizing quality in the form of a bactericidal effect. Independent testing has also shown that a sterile zone around the material inhibits the growth of organisms such as staphylococcus aureus, Clostridium difficile and Klebsiella pneumoniae (CRE).

To further extend the life of Marmoleum® with Topshield2™ in these areas, Forbo Beta-Buff has been developed. This specially formulated blend of polymers, surfactants, and mild solvents had been designed for use in some of the toughest areas in healthcare- operating and procedure rooms. This product provides additional protection to the flooring material from Betadine and isopropyl alcohol. Forbo Beta-Buff also enhances the slip resistance of Marmoleum® with Topshield2™.

Slip resistance testing was conducted on Marmoleum® with TopShield2™ that was treated with Forbo Beta-Buff in accordance with the latest version of ASTM D 2047, the Standard Test Method for Static Coefficient of Friction of Polish-Coated Flooring Surfaces as Measured by the James Machine. The minimum requirement on a flat surface for this test is a coefficient of friction of 0.6.

In operating and procedure rooms, the primary condition of concern is wet applications with rubber soled-shoes. When tested, Marmoleum® with Topshield2™ treated with Forbo Beta-Buff has a coefficient of friction of 1.19 – far exceeding the requirements.

Static load limit testing was also conducted on Marmoleum® with Topshield2™ in accordance with the latest version of ASTM F 970, the Standard Test Method for Static Load Limit. The results show that it can withstand up to 850 lbs. per square inch.

With the continuous improvements to Marmoleum® and the addition of Forbo Beta-Buff to the Forbo product line, Marmoleum® with Topshield2™ is clearly the best choice of flooring for use in operating and procedure rooms.

For additional information, Forbo's Installation and Floor Care Guidelines are available for download at www.forboflooringna.com, or contact Forbo Product Support & Education Services at +800 842 7839.