

# 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 Topshield2™ 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-Buffer 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-Buffer also enhances the slip resistance of Marmoleum® with Topshield2™.

Slip resistance testing was conducted on Marmoleum® with TopShield2™ that was treated with Forbo Beta-Buffer 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-Buffer 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-Buffer 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](http://www.forboflooringna.com), or contact Forbo Product Support & Education Services at +800 842 7839.