

# Technical Bulletin: Repairing Marmoleum

## General advice

1. Cigarette burns and light scratches can be repaired using steel wool (#00 or #00). Always work with the grain of the Marmoleum. Gently rub the damaged area until damage is removed. The repair is completed by reapplying floor finish in the repaired area.
2. Small gouges or cracks in Marmoleum can be repaired by filling them in with a paste commonly called "Hooper Doofer". "Hooper Doofer" is made by scraping the surface of a scrap piece of material using a paint scraper or knife, then grinding the scrapings into a fine powder (a powder can also be produced by sanding the scrap). The powder is then mixed with a white glue (like Elmer's Glue) to form a paste.

Fill the area being repaired with the paste, making sure to leave an excess that (after drying) can be sanded even with the floor surface using fine steel wool. The repair is completed by re-applying floor finish in the repaired area.

3. Severely damaged areas, deep gouges or tears for example, can be repaired by removing the damaged Marmoleum and inserting a new piece. This can be done by cutting a new piece of matching Marmoleum large enough to cover the damaged area in the shape of a football, diamond or triangle (insert piece).

If using a football or diamond shape, align the length of the insert piece with the machine direction (length) of the existing Marmoleum.

If using a triangle, make sure that none of the sides are perpendicular to the length of the existing Marmoleum. Secure the insert piece over the damaged area using double faced tape and use a knife to trace cut around the new material (merely "score" the material at this point - do not attempt to cut all the way through the existing Marmoleum).

Alternatively, if using a diamond or triangle insert piece, trace cut around all but one side, place a square tightly against the remaining side, remove the insert piece, and score the last side of the shape by following the edge of the square (this sometimes enables a better fit).

After removing the insert piece, follow the trace cuts to finish cutting through the existing Marmoleum. Make sure the knife is slightly angled so as to undercut the edges of the insert shape.

Carefully remove the damaged Marmoleum and scrape any residual adhesive from the substrate. Adhere the insert piece using new adhesive and roll the edges flush using a seam roller.

Remove any dried adhesive on the surface using mineral spirits followed by wiping with a damp cloth. Smooth any rough edges with fine steel wool. The repair is completed by re-applying floor finish in the repaired area.

## Repairing Forbo Marmoleum

1. Cigarette burns and small scratches may be repaired by using steel wool (#00 or #000) to smooth the scratch or remove the burn. Rub the damaged area, making sure to rub with the marbolisation, until the damage has been removed (Fig. 1). Apply floor finish to the repaired area with a clean cloth (Fig. 2) to complete the repair.



2. To repair small gouges and voids (Fig 1), a matching paste can be used to fill the damaged area. The paste is easily made by first scraping the surface of a scrap piece of material using a paint scraper or knife (Fig. 2). Grind the scrapings together to make a fine powder and then mix the powder with white glue to form a paste. Fill the damaged area with the paste. Leave a slight excess that, once dry, can be smoothed flush with the floor surface using steel wool. It is often helpful to mask off the area to be repaired so that cleanup will be easier (Fig. 3). After the paste has dried, smooth the repair with fine steel wool and apply floor finish to the repaired area with a clean cloth to complete the repair (Fig. 4).



3. Larger gouges or torn areas (Fig. 1) may be repaired by filling an inset made from a new piece of material into the damaged area. Insets in the shape of a triangle, diamond or fish eye running with the marbolisation are generally the least noticeable. Begin the repair by cutting the selected shape (in this case, a right triangle) around the damaged area, and carefully removing the damaged material (Fig. 2). Cutting a right triangle makes filling the inset piece easier by creating a starting corner. Match the marbolisation of the inset as closely as possible to that of area to be repaired (Fig. 3), and cut a square corner on the piece being used for the inset. Position the inset piece into the prepared area and mark the last side of the triangle on the inset piece. After cutting the final side of the triangle, install the inset using the recommended adhesive. Use a steel seam roller to bed the inset into the adhesive and press the edges flush with the surrounding floor surface. Clean any excess adhesive and apply floor finish to the repaired area with a clean cloth to complete the repair (Fig.5)

Fig.1



Fig.2



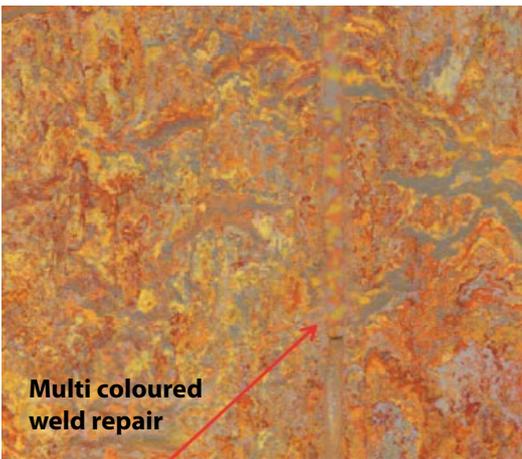
Fig.3



Fig.4



Fig.5



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