

# Technical Bulletin

## Rubber staining of PVC Floorcoverings

### Rubber staining of PVC floorcoverings is not a product fault or failure.

What is the cause of rubber staining?

Common black, grey or white rubber wheels, rubber sole shoes, rubber backed mats and various other kinds of products that are often made of "STANDARD RUBBER" which contain carbon black that will permanently stains PVC-floorings. This type of rubber often contains residual oils which will over a short period of time migrate into the floor covering. The migration will be visual as brown-yellow stains which are impossible to remove and will vary in size dependant on the contaminant source and foot traffic loads.

### Types of rubber:

**TPE = THERMO RUBBER** is a rubber material which is light and formed directly at the wheel felloe (the outer rim of a wheel) at a high temperature. It can be produced in different stiffness sometimes containing paraffin oil which normally gives no staining. However some spot staining maybe seen overtime due to the content of paraffin oil.

**TPU = INJECTED POLYURETHANE** Are very strong and possible to colour. Normally stain free.

**CAST IN SITU POLYURETHANE** The strongest material. The polyurethane is cast directly at the wheel felloe (the outer rim of a wheel). No stain at all.

Hospital bed and trolley wheels should be marked as "**NON Marking Wheels**". This marking means that the wheels will not give any marking like lines or staining. Always ask the wheel supplier for this marking. The photos below show yellowing of PVC floorcoverings from rubber staining.

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