

Caring for Flotex®

The Forbo Flotex® product range includes: Flotex® Linear, Flotex® Color, Flotex® Naturals, Flotex® Vision, Flotex® Seagrass and Flotex® Triad. Flotex® Linear and Flotex® Color are available in both sheet and tile formats. Flotex® Naturals and Flotex® Vision are available in sheet. Flotex® Seagrass and Flotex® Triad are available in plank format only.

Flotex® high performance carpet has a unique construction that allows it to release soil like no other carpet can. Unlike the looped and twisted fibers of a conventional carpet pile that traps soil particles, Flotex® has a 100% 6.6 nylon type wear layer comprised of smooth, straight fibers that allow for easy soil release of soil, making the care of Flotex® easy. Most spills can be cleaned with clean water. The intermediate fiberglass layer provides dimensional stability. Flotex® sheet has a recycled closed cell vinyl cushioned backing and Flotex® tile and plank has a recycled vinyl cushioned backing.

IMPORTANT! Before starting any cleaning procedures on any Forbo products, contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services for additional information, recommendations or to schedule a site visit. The best results may not be achieved if the chemical and equipment types recommended below are not used. The size of the equipment recommended may also vary based on the size of the space or application type.

NOTE: Forbo Flooring Systems does not warrant or guarantee the performance of other manufacturers' products mentioned in these guidelines. For specific information regarding Forbo's warranty, visit www.forboflooringNA.com or contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services.

INITIAL CLEANING

Cleaning performed for new installations exposed to normal construction soil and traffic. It is necessary to protect newly installed floors from construction soil, traffic and damage until they are ready for initial cleaning. In order to allow the adhesive to dry and cure properly, wait a minimum of five days following the installation before conducting initial cleaning or other wet cleaning procedures. For installations over non-porous substrates, additional time may be necessary because the adhesive may take longer to dry and cure.

1. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by vacuuming using a dual motor upright vacuum with a rotating brush, such as Tennant/Nobles V-DMU-14 or equivalent. The brush should be approximately 1/8" below the vacuum cleaner casing to ensure proper agitation. Make several passes with the vacuum cleaner to ensure that all loose dirt is removed. Vacuum action should be fast forward and slow backward.

NOTE: Flotex® requires regular care to keep it clean and prevent the accumulation of dirt and soil. Proper cleaning, such as daily vacuuming and routine hot water extraction, can reduce contamination to virtually non-existent levels. Identify sources of soiling and react to spills immediately, before they dry.

2. Spot clean if necessary by using the "Scrape, Scrub and Rinse" procedures.

"SCRAPE, SCRUB, AND RINSE" SPOTTING PROCEDURE

1. Scrape up spills using a spatula or blunt edged scraper and wipe excess soil onto a cloth.
2. Apply a liberal amount of clean water to the spot.
3. Using a spatula, scrape the water and the remains of the spill into a paper towel or cloth. Keep scraping with the spatula until the spill is completely removed.
4. If the spill or stain is not completely removed, apply a general purpose spotter cleaner to a white cotton cloth and rub it into the spot. Do not be afraid to use aggressive scrubbing to remove set-in spills. A soft wire brush can be used to remove scuff marks or other set in spills. Refer to the list at the end of this section for recommended products.

NOTE: Be certain not to leave any detergent residue when cleaning. Any chemicals applied to the flooring must be removed. No more than 1 oz. per gallon should be used. The most common problem when caring for Flotex® is the over use of cleaning chemicals. The buildup of chemicals and cleaners will de-luster the Flotex® fibers and leave a dull appearance. Chemical buildup also attracts dirt faster and speeds soiling.

5. Using a spatula, scrape the water, any cleaner and the remains of the spill into a paper towel or cloth. Keep scraping with the spatula until the spill or stain is completely removed.
6. Rinse the area thoroughly with clean water to ensure that any cleaning solution is completely removed.
7. A spotter machine, such as Tennant/Nobles EX-SPOT-2 or equivalent, may be used to perform rinsing throughout the spot cleaning process.
8. Allow a minimum of three hours drying time before traffic is allowed on the floor surface again. If traffic is allowed on the floor before it has completely dried, the fibers are more susceptible to attract soil, requiring additional cleaning procedures in these areas to achieve the desired result.

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INTERIM CLEANING

Cleaning performed as needed, depending on the application, type of traffic and hours of operation.

1. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by vacuuming using a dual motor upright vacuum with a rotating brush, such as Tennant/Nobles V-DMU-14 or equivalent. The brush should be approximately 1/8" below the vacuum cleaner casing to ensure proper agitation. Make several passes with the vacuum cleaner to ensure that all loose dirt is removed. Vacuum action should be fast forward and slow backward.
NOTE: Flotex® requires regular care to keep it clean and prevent the accumulation of dirt and soil. Proper cleaning, such as daily vacuuming and routine hot water extraction, can reduce contamination to virtually non-existent levels. Identify sources of soiling and react to spills immediately, before they dry.
2. Spot clean if necessary by using the "Scrape, Scrub and Rinse" procedures.
3. Use a self-contained portable extraction machine, such as Tennant E5, Nobles Speed EX or equivalent, preferably with counter-rotating brushes. The machine should be filled with the hottest water available at the facility, not to exceed 140° F (60° C).
4. Extract thoroughly, using clean water only. Set the machine to the proper height to ensure maximum agitation and contact with the fibers.
5. Follow each wet pass with a minimum of two dry passes.
6. Use snail fans or air movers for the final drying of the floor surface.
7. Allow a minimum of three hours drying time before traffic is allowed on the floor surface again. If traffic is allowed on the floor before it has completely dried, the fibers are more susceptible to attract soil, requiring additional cleaning procedures in these areas to achieve the desired result.

RESTORATION CLEANING

Cleaning performed as needed, depending on the application, type of traffic and hours of operation. The following processes should be followed when the interim cleaning is not removing the soil from the floor.

1. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by vacuuming using a dual motor upright vacuum with a rotating brush, such as Tennant/Nobles V-DMU-14 or equivalent. The brush should be approximately 1/8" below the vacuum cleaner casing to ensure proper agitation. Make several passes with the vacuum cleaner to ensure that all loose dirt is removed. Vacuum action should be fast forward and slow backward.
NOTE: Flotex® requires regular care to keep it clean and prevent the accumulation of dirt and soil. Proper cleaning, such as daily vacuuming and routine hot water extraction, can reduce contamination to virtually non-existent levels. Identify sources of soiling and react to spills immediately, before they dry.
2. Spot clean if necessary by using the "Scrape, Scrub and Rinse" procedures.
3. Mix a neutral pH cleaning solution according to the label directions. The pH of the cleaner in solution must be between 6.0 – 8.0 pH. Refer to the list at the end of this section for recommended products.
NOTE: If there are hard water or mineral deposits present, mix a hydrogen peroxide cleaning solution according to the label directions. The pH of the cleaner in solution must be between 4.0 – 7.0 pH. Refer to the list at the end of this section for recommended products.
4. Apply the solution to the floor. The solution can be applied with a pump up sprayer. Allow the solution to dwell on the floor for 5 – 10 minutes.
5. **IMPORTANT!! Before scrubbing the floor, the entire surface of the floor must be completely WET. If the floor is dry, the friction between the nylon fibers of Flotex and the brush can cause the machine to become uncontrollable.**
 Scrub the entire area using a low speed rotary machine such as Tennant/Nobles FM-17-SS or equivalent with a flagged-bristle brush such as Malish nylon carpet shampoo brush #812915 or equivalent.
NOTE: These types of brushes typically need to be broken in prior to use. Follow the manufacturers' recommendations for this process.
6. Use a self-contained portable extraction machine, such as Tennant E5, Nobles Speed EX or equivalent, preferably with counter-rotating cylindrical brushes. The machine should be filled with the hottest water available at the facility, not to exceed 140° F (60° C).
7. Extract thoroughly, using clean water only. Set the machine to the proper height to ensure maximum agitation and contact with the fibers.
8. Follow each wet pass with a minimum of two dry passes.
9. Use snail fans or air movers for the final drying of the floor surface.
10. Allow a minimum of three hours drying time before traffic is allowed on the floor surface again. If traffic is allowed on the floor before it has completely dried, the fibers are more susceptible to attract soil, requiring additional cleaning procedures in these areas to achieve the desired result.

NOTE: Weather, traffic and geographical location will influence the required frequency of this procedure. For example, in areas where there are large amounts of snow and chemicals used in the winter months it will likely be necessary to perform this procedure more frequently. In dry climates, or where there is less dirt traffic, it may not be necessary to perform this procedure as frequently.

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RECOMMENDED FLOOR CARE PRODUCTS

The following list of recommended floor care chemicals have been tested for compatibility with Forbo products. This list is provided to offer the best opportunity to care for your flooring and meet the needs of your facility. **If you prefer to use a manufacturer's floor care chemicals that are not listed, be sure to use a corresponding cross-referenced product.** For additional information on a product or for your local supplier, refer to the Contacts section of the Forbo Commercial Floor Care Guide.

Neutral pH Cleaners:

Forbo Neutral pH Cleaner
3M™ Neutral Cleaner 3H
Pro-Link Level 7
Spartan Damp Mop
Diversey Stride
Ecolab® QC 34 High Performance Neutral Floor Cleaner

Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaners:

Pro-Link TransOxy
Spartan Clean by Peroxy
3M™ Peroxide Cleaner 34L
Diversey Alpha HP
Ecolab® Revitalize Carpet Upholstery PreSpray Cleaner

Forbo's Commercial Floor Care Guide contains additional information and is available for download at www.forboflooringNA.com. For a hard copy, or for additional information, contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services at 1-800-842-7839.