

## TD.305 – TECHNICAL DATA: Maintenance – Resinous Flooring

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If general care is provided and recommended guidelines observed, the decorative appearance and life of all resinous flooring will be extended.

Reasons why the floor must be maintained:

- Aesthetics – Prolong the life and finish of the flooring system.
- Safety – Regardless of the chosen texture of the floor, if it is not properly cleaned and maintained it may create a slip and fall hazard.
- Longevity – The performance and life of the floor is contingent on the proper cleaning methods. Contaminants such as food, dirt, and oil may break down the floor if left uncleaned.

The cleaning procedures will be determined by a number of factors: the type of resin flooring installed, the type and frequency of traffic, the degree and type of contaminants, and specific hygiene requirements.

Following installation:

- The new flooring system should be allowed to fully cure for 7 days before using water or cleaning products.
- Light foot traffic: 24 hours at 68°F / 20°C, 48 hours at 46°F / 8°C
- Full mechanical and chemical exposure: 7 days at 68°F / 20°C, 14 days at 46°F / 8°C

## Cleaning

- Regular cleaning is necessary to maintain the appearance and to prolong the life of the flooring system.
- Flooring cleaning can be thought of as having two components, a mechanical component and chemical component, these two components should work together to mutual advantage.
- A small spot test in an inconspicuous area is a worthwhile precaution before applying any new cleaning product.

Proper maintenance begins with understanding the basic steps:

1. Regular sweeping and cleaning are advised as dirt and dust are abrasive and can prematurely age the surface.
2. Use pH neutral cleaning products and follow manufacturers recommendations.
3. Remove cleaning product residue with proper rinsing.
  - For the most effective cleaning method, use auto scrubber machines.
  - Other cleaning methods like wet vacs and manual methods can be utilized.
  - Abrasive cleaners must not be used.
  - Acid and solvent based cleansers must not be used.
  - Strong alkaline cleaners must not be used in concentration form.
  - Glaze coats or wax can be used.

## Scrubbing – Manual & Mechanical

1. Sweep floor to remove loose debris and accumulation of contaminants.
2. Use the appropriate cleaning agent (detergent, deodorizer, degreaser, emulsifier).
3. Apply cleaning agent diluted as recommend by manufacturer and allow it to react on surface. Agitate by hand using a stiff brush or mechanically (using auto scrubber or rotary floor machine).
4. Flood with clean water and scrub.
5. Remove dirty water with wet vacuum or squeegee to floor drains. Refer to local hazard disposal requirements.
6. Contaminated water may be required to be disposed of as hazardous waste.
7. Observe all regulations, which prohibit introduction of certain chemical cleaners, solvents, and wastes into surface water drains, sewer systems, open bodies of water or into the soil. Rinse again and remove.
8. Regular washing with a suitable washer/drier machine should normally be carried out using a low foam neutral detergent.

## Mop and Bucket - Manual

- This should be the cleaning method for dealing with spills, but is not for routinely cleaning the floor.
- In normal every day usage, the mop and bucket may remove heavy build up of debris. However, if the water is not changed frequently, it will result in the floor being wiped with dirty water which could result in a film that can cause hazardous slip/fall conditions.

## Rotary Floor Machine - Mechanical

- Controlled application of cleaning agent
- Effective scrubbing action
- A wide range of pads are available for specific tasks.
  - Black: Heavy-duty stripping, quickly removes dirt, wax, floor finish, and sealers. For use with any stripping agent.
  - Green: Light stripping and wet scrubbing. Thoroughly removes dirt and scuff marks.
  - Blue: Wet scrubbing or heavy-duty spray cleaning. Gives the floor a thorough scrubbing removing dirt and scuffs. Will remove top of surface finish ready for recoating.
  - Red: Use for smooth shiny finish while removing light dirt. The typical spray cleaning/buffing pad.
  - Tan: Dry polishing/buffing pad. Removes light dirt while shining floors. Especially good in light traffic areas.
  - White: Soft, fine pad for polishing dry floors. Designed to be used with soft and high gloss finishes. Will remove light dirt while maintaining high gloss finish.

The choice of using brushes or pads will usually be determined by the profile of the floor and the level of debris. Brushes are normally better on floors with raised non slip finish, and floors with a significant texture.

### Auto Scrubber - Mechanical

1. Sweep floor to remove loose debris.
2. Use the appropriate detergent and/or degreaser cleaning agents.
3. Apply cleaning agent (or combination of agents) diluted as recommended in the on-board detergent tank allowing it to react on surface.
4. Agitate mechanically using the floor scrubber.
5. Remove dirty water with wet vacuum.
6. Observe all regulations, which prohibit disposal of certain chemical cleaners, solvents, and wastes into drains, sewer systems, open bodies of water, or into the soil.
7. Rinse and scrub again and vacuum clean and dry.

### Pressure Washers or Steam Cleaning Equipment

- **Consult with Technical Representative to ensure that cleaning method is appropriate for flooring system.**
  - Care should be taken to select suitable equipment.
  - These pieces of equipment can be extremely powerful. Proper training should be given to ensure they are used safely.
    1. Sweep floor to remove loose debris. Pre-wet floor.
    2. Use the appropriate detergent and/or degreaser cleaning agents.
    3. Steam cleaners may require special cleaning agents. Apply cleaning agent (or combination of agents) diluted as required and allow it to react on surface.
    4. Using the pressure washer or steam cleaner, work the entire surface of the floor in a planned sequence. This will agitate and loosen hard-to-remove debris or contamination.
    5. Flood with clean water and work over the floor surface once again.
    6. Observe all regulations, which prohibit disposal of certain chemical cleaners, solvents, and wastes into drains, sewer systems, open bodies of water, or into the soil.
    7. Rinse again and remove water.

### Anti-Static Flooring

- Routine cleaning and wear may alter the electrical properties of flooring. Therefore, routine test methods and frequency of tests should be agreed before completion, as should the agency responsible for these tests.
- The manufacturer should be contacted for their recommendations regarding cleaning methods, materials, polishes etc. In particular, selection of polishes should be done with care as some may act as insulators.
- The use of inappropriate cleaning routines may compromise the electrostatic dissipative performance of the floor.

## Cleaning Materials

- There is a wide range of cleaning products available for maintaining the floor. Many of these are complex blends of chemicals, some of which have very specific application requirements. This is more often the case with the bio products, which are targeted against specific contaminants such as fats or oils.
- Some cleaning materials can have an adverse effect on a specific surface if used improperly. In the wrong concentration it can cause etching, softening, or other damage to the surface or body of the finish. In some cases, a film/residue can form and cause slip/fall conditions.

## Accidental Impact Damage

- We advise contacting the installer as soon as possible to ensure remedial measures can be affected in order to retain the performance of the resinous flooring and prevent water or chemical ingress into the damaged area.

## Accidental Surface Damage

- If surface damage occurs, contact the installer for possible solutions.

## Accidental Spills

- Chemical spills, including petrochemicals, should be cleaned up immediately following above procedures and local disposal guidelines.
- Certain chemicals may cause some color changes. This is usually caused by a surface reaction and will not impair performance of the flooring system. Contact installer for further instruction.

## General Care Guidelines

### Recommended

- After full cure, clean the floor before use.
- Protect the floor when installing equipment.
- Areas with heavier traffic need to be cleaned more often, (e.g. entrances) where the levels of dirt and debris are highest.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Remove traces of oil and grease immediately with a cleaner/degreaser.
- Use brushes for resin flooring with a textured surface, not mops.
- Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturers of chemicals and equipment.

### Not Recommended

- Use of concentrated cleaning agents in excess.
- Mixing of cleaning chemicals and agents.
- Use of excessive water.

- Use of solvents.
- Use of synthetic scrubbing pads on textured resin floor finishes. These industrial finishes will cause rapid destruction of the pads.
- Use of phenol-based cleaning chemicals; they will cause degradation of resin floor surfaces.

### Types of Resin Flooring and Cleaning Method

Name	Description	Duty*	Typical Thickness	Cleaning
Sealers	Applied in two or more coats. Solvent or waterborne.	Light Duty	Up to 2 mils or 0.05 mm	Pressure wash, scrub, and dry
HERMETIC™ Neat	Applied in two or more coats. VOC / solvent free.	Medium Duty	> 20 mils or 0.5 mm	Wash / scrub and dry
HERMETIC™ Flake	Applied in two or more coats, including flake broadcast media. VOC / solvent free. Orange peel texture.	Medium Duty	Single Broadcast > 1/16" or 1.5 mm Double Broadcast > 1/8" or 3 mm	Mechanical scrubber / dryers satisfactory but not with regular use of abrasive pads
HERMETIC™ Stout HERMETIC™ Quartz	Broadcast quartz resinous systems. Textured with an aggressive finish.	Medium Duty / Heavy Duty	Single Broadcast > 1/16" or 1.5 mm Double Broadcast > 1/8" or 3 mm	Scrub and squeegee / rotary brush vacuum machine
HERMETIC™ Paramount	Resin / aggregate blend applied as wet slurry. Textured as smooth or aggressive finish.	Heavy Duty	Up to 1/4" or 6.5 mm	Scrub and squeegee / rotary brush vacuum machine
HERMETIC™ Paramount HD	Trowel-finished, heavily filled systems, generally incorporating a surface seal coat to minimize porosity.	Heavy Duty / Very Heavy Duty	> 1/4" or 6.5 mm	Scrub and squeegee / rotary brush vacuum machine
HERMETIC™ 4.8S Urethane Cement Slurry	Resin / aggregate blend applied as wet slurry. Textured as smooth or aggressive finish.	Heavy Duty / Very Heavy Duty	> 5/16" or 8 mm to achieve thermal shock resistance	Scrub and squeegee / rotary brush vacuum machine or forced steam

\*Light Duty – light foot traffic, occasional rubber-tired vehicles.

\*Medium Duty – regular foot traffic, frequent fork lift traffic, hard neoprene wheeled carts.

\*Heavy Duty – constant fork lift traffic, hard neoprene wheeled carts, occasional impact.

\*Very Heavy Duty – heavily loaded traffic and occasional impact.