

Luxury Vinyl Plank & Tile Flooring Maintenance Guidelines

10.12.18

The purpose of this manual is to provide general maintenance recommendations based on certain installation environments. If there are other questions about a specific issue not covered in this manual, please contact © Swiff-Train Company, 10850 Train Ct. Houston, Texas 77041 or call 800.275.7943 (opt 2).

General Maintenance and Specification Hints

While Ground Control Surfaces flooring requires minimum routine maintenance to retain a new like appearance and high-performance characteristics for many years. Many factors influence the type and extent of a maintenance program for any given installation. Many times these decisions are a matter of preference, and others based on need of hygiene. Regardless of the decision, Ground Control Surfaces flooring will perform beyond its years with an effective maintenance program.

Initial/General Maintenance

- Without Finish

- After the installation, allow the floor to rest for a period of 48 hours at a recommended temperature of 68-74° F.
- Dust mop the floor before applying a neutral cleaner. In areas where construction dust and debris are excessive, a neutral cleaner may be used to deep clean.
- Mix a solution of a quality brand of neutral cleaner in a clean bucket or a solution tank at the recommended dilution rate of 2 oz. per gallon of water or as dictated by the manufacturer.
- Mop or scrub your Ground Control Surfaces flooring with microfiber pads when possible then allow to dry. The use of a red 3M® pad is acceptable with an auto-scrubber is acceptable. **Never use a black or brown 3M® pads** on any Ground Control Surfaces flooring products as these are very aggressive and can damage the wear layer surface of the material.

Note: The initial maintenance program may also be utilized as a no finish maintenance program. This program has a higher success with flooring products that have a heavy emboss surface as they tend to hide scuffing and scratching from normal use. If you have any technical questions please contact Swiff-Train Company @ 800.275.7943 (opt 2).

High Traffic Maintenance

- With Finish

- Once you have cleaned the floor with a dust mop and neutral cleaner as listed above, apply a thin coat of acrylic finish to the surface using a rayon mop, microfiber pad or lamb's wool applicator.
- Do not apply too thick. Most acrylic finishes do not require it, and it will take a longer time to dry.
- When surface is dry, apply a second or third coat depending on the desired gloss/shine.
- Allow surface to dry for 24 hours before moving furniture or allowing traffic on the floor.
- Practice your routine maintenance program as described below.

Routine Maintenance

- Daily dust mopping to remove dirt is recommended followed by thorough cleaning using neutral cleaner with microfiber-type pads/mops.
- When cleaning with a neutral cleaner, use a separate clean damp microfiber mop or an automatic scrubber with a white pad at a low speed of 175 to 350 rpm.
- When buffing, use a red 3M® pad when cleaning the flooring. If a floor finish is being used, a spray buffing procedure is an acceptable application during the routine maintenance process.
- High speed burnishing with a buffer is not recommended and can damage the wear layer surface of the material.

Stripping

Stripping is the process of removing all dirt and previously applied floor finish and is necessary only when layers of previously applied floor finish are considered to be heavy. Follow these steps to effectively prepare and strip your Ground Control Surfaces flooring products

- Use of a high quality stripper from your local maintenance product supplier.
- Use according to instructions on product label provided by the manufacturer. You may also use an auto-scrubber fitted with a 3M® pad green pad or with a scrub brush.
- Excessively aggressive pads and brushes can cause flooring to be permanently damaged. **Never use black or brown 3M® pads** as these are very aggressive and can damage the surface of the material.
- Remove the dirty solution with a wet vacuum or with a mop.
- Repeat the rinse activity as many times as necessary to remove all traces of soil, old floor finish and stripper solution.
- Process should be repeated until all of the old floor finish is completely removed.
- Do not use a mop on/mop-off, no-scrub and/or no-rinse stripper on Ground Control Surfaces flooring products. These products can damage the floor and contaminate the new floor finish.

- Use of a quality brand of maintenance products on Ground Control Surfaces flooring products along with a regularly schedule maintenance program can significantly reduce need for stripping.

Additional Recommendations

- Properly place protective walk off matting at any entrance to the building to remove loose dirt and moisture from shoes. (Use matting with a non-rubber type backing because of the yellowing effect of rubber on vinyl over time).
- Maintain a steady maintenance routine and cleaning schedule to keep dirt and dust off of the floor. Regular maintenance will keep your floor looking and performing at its best.
- Clean up any and all spills as soon as they occur.
- When moving any type of furniture or heavy equipment, protect the floor with a temporary floor pad or plywood to prevent premature scratching or mechanical damage.
- Avoid using any scraping tools to remove anything that is stuck to the floor which could damage the wear layer of flooring.
- Do not use any highly abrasive or solvent-based cleaners as damage may occur. Check with your maintenance supply house to ensure that you are using the appropriate cleaning products.
- Use appropriate feet protectors for all furniture. This will prevent furniture from damaging the surface of the flooring.