

Longevity Guide

Extending the Life of Your Floor



*Additional Reading for AIA course **ecs09a - Decorative, Dynamic Resinous Flooring Systems**, sponsored by **Elite Crete Systems**. Please complete the course quiz online to receive credit.*

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Floor space takes up a lot of real estate in your project. As such, it plays a **big** role in the visual and functional impact you make as a designer. Once installed, keeping your floor clean and looking beautiful also signifies something to building users about the overall cleanliness of a facility. The aesthetic, cleanliness, and functionality of the floor you specify will impact the legacy of your building. Following general care and recommended guidelines for maintaining your flooring system will extend the life of the floor. **BUT** regular cleaning and maintenance should be as easy as possible. Along with an already solid long lifespan, ease of care and maintenance of fluid-applied resinous flooring systems provides an added value and advantage, ensuring the longevity of your floor and contributing to your project's integrity.

Reasons Why The Floor Must Be Maintained:

- Aesthetics – The floor will continue to look as it did when it was first installed.
- Safety – Regardless of the chosen texture of the floor, if it is not properly cleaned and maintained it may create a slip and fall accident.
- Longevity – The performance and life of the floor is contingent on the proper cleaning.
 - > *Contaminants such as food, dirt and oil may break down the floor if left un-cleaned.*

Care Immediately after Installation:

- The new flooring system should be allowed to fully cure before being used.
 - > *The Following Perimeters Apply:*
 - Careful foot traffic - 24 hours at 20°C, 48 hours at 8°C
 - Full mechanical and chemical loading - 7 days at 20°C, 14 days at 8°C
 - Washing with water must not occur until the curing cycle is completed i.e. not within 7 days.

CLEANING:

- Cleaning regularly is necessary to maintain the appearance and prolong the life of the flooring system.
- Proper cleaning begins with understanding the basic steps:
 1. Removal of contaminant via sweeping or vacuuming
 2. Use of cleaning product
 3. Time required by the cleaning product to properly remove the contaminant
 4. Removing of the cleaning product
 5. Proper rinsing



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CLEANING METHODS

1. Hand Cleaning:

The floor can be cleaned by the use of a mop and bucket using our approved cleanser. It is important the floor is finally rinsed with clean water to avoid smearing contaminated water across the floor. The main problem associated with this cleaning method is drying the floor effectively without allowing contaminated water to puddle upon the surface and leave a dirty smear effect when dry. This method of cleaning is normally only recommended for cleansing small areas of localized spillage.

2. Washer Scrubber Dryer Machines:

Technical advances in floor maintenance equipment over the past decade has provided industry with low cost, highly efficient machines applying low foam cleansers with vacuum suction drying. The use of these machines is recommended as being the most effective method of cleaning floors with minimum disruption.

3. Wet Vacuum Pick Up Machines:

Having washed the floor with copious amounts of water and cleanser the floor can be dried efficiently by passing over the area with a Wet Vacuum Pick Up Machine. These machines will dry the floor extremely well leaving a clean dry surface. To achieve best results final rinsing with cold clean water may be necessary to remove and pick up any fine sediment of dirt that remains upon the surface.

4. Power Washing:

A highly effective method of cleaning but difficult to control and to remove the large volumes of water left upon the floor. Should the floor levels be variable then water puddles maybe created and difficult to remove.

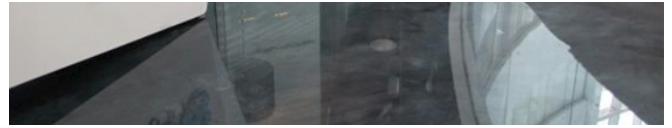
5. Steam Cleaning:

The use of a steam cleaner is not recommended for this particular flooring system. Excessive heat shock may cause swelling, blistering and subsequent adhesion failure to this flooring system.



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Additional Cleaning Tips:

- A General Purpose Cleanser is an ideal product for epoxy resin floors.
- The use of Washer Scrubber Dryer machines incorporating the recommended cleaners would be the best, most effective method of cleaning the floor.
- Abrasive cleansers must not be used.
- Acid based cleansers must not be used.
- Strong alkali based cleansers must not be used in concentration form.
- Solvent cleansers must not be used although some solvent "activated" cleansers are suitable.
- Scraping of the surface should be avoided however plastic scrapers or squeegees with rounded corners are more gentle to the floors surface.

Polishing/Burnishing:

- Having washed the floor the application of approved clear polymer glaze coats or wax polishes are recommended to protect the upper surface from minor scratches and abrasions.
- Wax modified cleansers will provide improved scratch resistance. We recommend two or more coats are applied following a maintenance washing. Two or more coats can easily be applied in one day. Having done so repeated applications of polish should be made every three months -12 months depending upon requirement, usage and appearance of the floor.

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 Epoxy Coating system and prevent water or chemical ingress into the damaged area.

Accidental Scratch or Scoring Damage:

- Should the flooring surface become scratched or scored by abrasive materials then we would immediately recommend the surface is cleaned with an approved cleanser and an approved polish or glaze coat is applied to the surface. This will protect the floor from further minor scratches. Repeat applications building up the thickness of the polish or glaze coat will provide improved scratch resistance.

Spillage's and Deposits:

- Regular sweeping and cleaning is advised as dirt and dust are abrasive and can prematurely age the surface. Spillage of chemicals i.e., petrol or oil should be cleaned up immediately as with all good cleaning procedures.
- After chemical spillage's, certain chemicals may cause some color changes. This usually is caused by a surface reaction only and will not impair the mechanical performance of the flooring system. If in doubt, contact Manufacturer or Installers for the flooring urgently.

