

Maintenance Guide

Caring for your floor

1. After installation, all traffic and furniture should be kept off the floor for at least 24 hours to allow it to reach sufficient initial hardness. The floor will continue to harden for up to seven days, so the longer you can keep traffic and loads off, the better.

2. When moving furniture or other heavy objects, be sure to lift and not drag them across the floor. It may be practical to lay down some protective floor covering and timber sheeting to prevent damage.

3. During the first seven days, take care to keep liquids and chemicals off the floor while it develops full stain resistance.

4. In order to prevent indentations, provide glass, plastic or other non-staining, flat floor protectors not less than 50mm in width underneath the legs of heavy furniture and appliances. Fit broad, 50mm diameter (minimum) castor wheels to any office chairs or equipment that needs to be mobile. Remove any small diameter buttons on the bottom of chairs and install 25mm (minimum) felt or other non-scuffing pads.

5. Protect the floor against heat sources and burns from cigarettes, matches or any other extremely hot surfaces.

6. Protect your floor from tracked in dirt and grit by using non-staining mats outside all entrances. Take time to remove embedded dirt and grit from the bottom of shoes before entering the room. Be careful as some rubber or latex-backed mats can cause stains.

7. The decorative flake flooring system has good stain resistance and will not be affected by most household and commercial chemicals, however any spills should be cleaned up immediately and not be allowed to dry out on the floor. Good housekeeping practices, including dilution and quick clean-up, will minimise chemical damage.

8. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods as it can cause floor discolouration. Tint windows if possible and use blinds, curtains or drapes to prevent sunlight hitting the floor during peak sunlight hours.

9. Do not use any other cleaning products apart from streak-free, pH neutral detergents. Dry, flat dust mops and wet flat mops are the most effective way to clean decorative flake flooring.



Ongoing Maintenance

A floor is one of the most heavily used of all surfaces, yet they are rarely maintained to the standard required.

A good maintenance program will not only keep the area looking good, but also give the floor the best possible chance of performing as expected over a long life.

There are some basic good practices that can be followed by the owner to help prolong the life and aesthetics of a decorative flake finish.

Good practices include:

- Sweep and mop floors on a regular basis. Regular cleaning will provide continued inspection to help detect and repair damage as soon as possible.
- Smooth floors are best swept with flat dust mops. Wet mopping can be done with flat mops and the use of a pH neutral cleaner. For extra attention, a microfibre cloth can be used to gently remove scuff marks as they occur.
- Prepare a clean-up procedure to ensure exposure to spills is kept to a minimum. Smooth floors should be kept as dry as possible for the maintenance of the floor and safety of its users.
- Have any damage repaired as soon as possible.
- As already noted, when moving equipment or furniture be sure to lift and not drag these items to prevent scratching. Smooth floors are susceptible to scuff and tyre marks, so be careful with the traffic allowed on these surfaces.

Of course there are some bad practices to avoid:

- Don't use vacuum cleaners without brush attachment as they may scuff the surface.
- Don't use steam cleaners or boiling water as this may temporarily soften the floor. It is generally not necessary to clean with water above 60°C.

- Don't wear footwear with metal tips or nails underneath, e.g. golf shoes.
- If the floor is to handle vehicular traffic, use tyres that don't mark or can have their marks removed. Drive carefully and avoid spinning wheels etc.