

### **Forbo Flooring Cleaning and Maintenance advice:**

The Forbo Step slip resistant vinyl collections are easy to clean and maintain, thanks to their highly durable PUR finish.

#### **Initial clean before use**

Newly installed floors should not be wet cleaned within 3 days of installation.

Remove all debris, dirt and dust off the floor and clean the floor with a neutral floor cleaner. For larger areas a scrubber dryer or a rotary machine (150-180 rpm) with a 3M red pad or equivalent may be used. Pick up dirty water with a wiper and mop or wet vacuum, rinse with clean water and allow floor to dry.

#### **Regular cleaning**

The frequency of regular cleaning method will depend on the amount of traffic, soiling levels, desired appearance, and hygiene standards.

- Remove dust and loose dirt by vacuum cleaning, sweeping or mopping.
- Remove spots, stains and spillages with a damp mop and a neutral floor cleaner.

#### **As required:**

- Machine Cleaning - Spray clean the floor with a rotary machine (150-180 rpm)\*, a 3M red pad or equivalent and neutral floor cleaner
- Manual Cleaning – Scrub with a neutral floor cleaner and a suitable scrubbing brush/mop. Remove dirty water with a wiper and mop. Rinse with clean water and allow the floor to dry.

#### **Periodic maintenance**

##### **Machine Cleaning**

- Scrub with a neutral floor cleaner, a rotary machine\* and a 3M blue pad or equivalent
- Pick up dirty water with a wiper and mop or a wet vacuum
- Rinse with clean water and a mop
- Allow the floor to dry

##### **Manual Cleaning**

- Clean the floor periodically using the manual method above. Clean heavily soiled areas with a neutral floor cleaner which should be allowed to soak on the floor for a few minutes before scrubbing. Rinse well with clean water and allow the floor to dry.

#### **Please note:**

Do not use seals or polishes, or floor maintainers containing polish as the slip resistant properties of Step could be reduced.

\*The use of cylindrical brush machines with brushes equivalent to 3M Red/Blue (as appropriate) may be used as an alternative.

These may be beneficial where machine cleaning is required in small areas and accessibility does not lend itself to cleaning with a rotary machine.

# Best Practice: Tips for effective floor care

## General advice

### Protect newly laid floors

All newly laid floors should be covered and protected from all other trades during the contract with a suitable non-staining protective covering. Use protective feet on chairs and tables to reduce scratching. Castor wheels should be of soft material suitable for resilient floor coverings (according to EN425).

### Use Entrance Systems

As much as 80% of dirt entering a building is brought in by foot traffic. Entrance flooring systems of an appropriate size (ideally more than 6lm) and quality should be used. [Forbo coral](#) are independently proven to remove and retain up to 94% of all dirt and moisture entering a building by foot traffic; reducing maintenance costs and maximising appearance retention of adjacent flooring products as well as reducing slip risk. As with any dirt removal system all entrance flooring systems should be regularly cleaned to release the dirt which has been removed.

### Cleaning

- Regular cleaning is more beneficial and cost effective than occasional deep cleaning.
- Use recommended cleaning products. High quality cleaning products and equipment ensure efficient maintenance and represent only a small proportion of maintenance costs.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning products
- Always follow the Health and Safety guidance provided.

### Use of Floor Care Chemicals

The improper use of cleaning chemicals may cause damage and/or discolouration. Overuse or inadequate rinsing of cleaning chemicals may compromise the performance of the floor. Abrasive powders or cleansers should not be used. Do not use seals or polishes, or floor maintainers containing polish as the slip resistant properties of Step could be reduced.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How often should I clean my floor?

The optimum frequency for cleaning and maintenance is determined by the way the floor is used. When producing a cleaning and maintenance schedule it is good practice to consider the situation of the floor first: e.g. is it near an entrance to the building or on an upper floor? Will it collect dry or moist soil? What level of traffic will it be subjected to? Remember that light and uni-colours may need to be cleaned more frequently.

#### Can I polish my floor?

Polish should not be applied to any Forbo Step product as the slip resistant properties may be adversely affected.

### How do I remove stains?

Remove stains as soon as they are discovered. Most stains can be safely removed using a dry (paper) towel, water, detergent, white spirit or alcohol (in that order). Do NOT use highly alkaline products (ammonia, soda) or strong solvents such as acetone as they can be harmful to both people and to your floor.

| Marks caused by                             | Removed with                                  |
|---|---|
| chocolate, grease, egg, coffee, juice, etc. | Neutral floor cleaner in lukewarm water       |
| Asphalt, oil, rubber, soot                  | cleaners' white spirits                       |
| Chewing-gum                                 | cool with cold spray or ice cubes and scrape. |
| Rust  | Oxalic or citric acid in lukewarm water       |

If any doubt exists test cleaning materials on a sample piece or in an inconspicuous area.

### Cleaning brushes, machine speeds and floor care products

#### Pad codes

The colour codes indicating grades of pads may vary depending on the manufacturer/country.

| Task                       | 3M Pad colour |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| For regular spray cleaning | Red           |
| For periodic maintenance   | Blue          |

#### Note:

Brown or black pads should not be used on Surestep products

#### Cylindrical Brush Machines

Cylindrical brush machines with brushes equivalent to 3M Red or blue pads (as appropriate) may be used as an alternative to rotary machines and pads.

#### Recommended Floor care products

For spray cleaning use a pH neutral detergent such as [Forbo Monel](#).

Other floor care products may be used on Forbo Flooring resilient floor coverings. If alternative products are to be used consult with your regular supplier for more information and guidance.

**Forbo surestep cleaning video:** [https://youtu.be/6Ch\\_ue1m-B1w](https://youtu.be/6Ch_ue1m-B1w)