

# Ground Control Surfaces

## Luxury Vinyl Plank & Tile Flooring Commercial Maintenance Guidelines

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Ground Control Surfaces Luxury Vinyl Plank and Tile flooring is manufactured with a UV cured finish which protects the surface of the flooring and allows for ease of maintenance. The purpose of this manual is to provide general and routine maintenance recommendations. Improper maintenance or use of products not specifically designed for use on resilient flooring may damage the surface of the floor and void your warranty. Always refer to manufacturer's current maintenance recommendations which may be found at [www.groundcontrolsurfaces.com](http://www.groundcontrolsurfaces.com).

### General Information

Ground Control Surfaces flooring requires minimum routine maintenance to retain the appearance and performance characteristics of our floors. Many factors influence the type of maintenance program recommended for specific installations including end user's expectations; environment; amount of traffic; color, design, and texture of flooring.

The type and frequency of maintenance may be based on use, or health and hygiene requirements. Ground Control Surfaces flooring will perform best with a maintenance program suitable for the environment in which it is installed.

### Initial Care and Maintenance

Allow adhesive to fully cure for at least 72 hours prior to moving furniture or allowing heavy foot traffic and rolling loads on the floor. Do not mop, scrub, or strip the floor for at least 5 days after the installation. This will prevent excess moisture and cleaning agents from inhibiting a proper adhesive bond.

Once the adhesive has fully cured, sweep or vacuum the entire floor to remove dust, dirt and debris. Clean floor with a pH neutral cleaner specifically formulated for use on resilient flooring. Always follow manufacturer's instructions for use.

When flooring is initially installed it may be necessary to cover the flooring with protective paper or membrane until other trades have completed work and the building is ready for occupancy. In areas where construction dust and debris are excessive, a pH neutral cleaner may be used for deep cleaning.

Use clean micro-fiber mop or pads, or a white 3M pad and low speed (175 to 300 rpm) auto-scrubber.

**NOTE: Never use a black or brown 3M® pad on any Ground Control Surfaces flooring products as these are very abrasive and can damage the surface of the flooring.**

### Routine Maintenance

Initial maintenance recommendations may be utilized as a routine maintenance program without the application of additional finish. This maintenance option is best for flooring products that have a heavily embossed surface as they tend to reduce visibility of scuffing and scratching from normal use.

Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove dust, dirt, and debris followed by thorough cleaning with a pH neutral cleaner specifically formulated for resilient flooring. Always follow manufacturer's recommendations for use.

When cleaning with a pH neutral cleaner, use a clean damp microfiber mop or pad, or an automatic scrubber with a new 3M white pad at a low RPM (175 to 350 RPM). High speed burnishing with a buffer is not recommended and can damage the wear surface.

If a floor finish is not being used, spray buffing is an acceptable option during routine maintenance to reduce visibility of superficial scratches and scuff marks. When buffing, use a red 3M® pad with an auto-scrubber at a low RPM (175 to 350 RPM) to polish the flooring.

### High Traffic Maintenance

Application of an acrylic finish may be desired in high traffic installations to provide additional stain and abrasion resistance, and to maintain the gloss level of the flooring.

Prior to application of finish, sweep or vacuum the floor thoroughly and clean with a pH neutral cleaner, following manufacturer's recommendations for use. Allow to dry thoroughly.

Apply 3-4 thin coats of finish, following manufacturer's recommendations. Finish should be applied using a microfiber mop or pad, or a lamb's wool applicator. Allow each coat to dry thoroughly.

Apply additional finish coats depending on the desired gloss/shine. Do not apply layers too thick, as thicker coats take longer to dry.

Allow finished flooring to cure for 24 hours before moving furniture or allowing foot traffic or rolling loads on the floor.

After new finish has fully cured, resume routine maintenance program using pH neutral cleaner.

## Stripping

Stripping removes dirt and previously applied floor finish and is necessary when floor finish is considered too heavy, soiled, or showing excessive wear.

Prepare the flooring by thoroughly sweeping or vacuuming to remove dust, dirt, and debris.

Use a high-quality finish stripper specifically formulated for use on resilient flooring.

Always follow manufacturer's instructions for application and use.

Agitate with 3M® blue or green pad on an auto-scrubber, or equivalent manual scrub brush for best results.

**NOTE: Never use black or brown 3M® pads as these are very abrasive and can permanently damage the surface of the flooring.**

Remove any dirty solution or stripper residue with a wet vacuum or mop.

Rinse completely with clean water and repeat rinsing process as many times as necessary to remove all traces of soil, old floor finish and stripper solution.

Stripping process should be repeated until the old floor finish is completely removed.

Using high-quality maintenance products for regularly scheduled maintenance will significantly reduce the need for frequent stripping.

**NOTE: 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 may contaminate the new floor finish.**

## Additional Recommendations

- Place protective walk-off mats at all entrances to remove loose dirt and moisture. Do not use rubber backed mats as they may discolor vinyl.
- Maintain a regular maintenance routine and cleaning schedule to keep grit, dirt, and debris off the floor. Regular maintenance will keep your floor looking and performing its best.
- Clean up 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 damage from rolling loads.
- Avoid using scraping tools to remove anything that is stuck to the floor. Scraping the surface of the flooring with sharp objects may damage the wear layer.
- Use only pH neutral cleaners on the flooring. Do not use abrasive or solvent-based cleaners as damage may occur. Always refer to manufacturer's recommendations for use to ensure that you are using appropriate cleaning products.
- Use heavy duty, commercial grade nylon or felt furniture protectors on the feet and bases of chairs, tables and other heavy furniture or fixtures. This will prevent furniture from damaging the surface of the flooring.
- Use caster chairs with a minimum 2-1/2" diameter soft caster. Smaller, hard plastic or metal casters may cause visible wear and can damage the floor.

Ground Control Surfaces is a division of Swiff-Train, LLC, 10850 Train Court, Houston, Texas 77041