

Floor types and Basic Care

ASPHALT

Components: MATRIX, ASPHALATIC RESINS, PIGMENTS, MINERAL FILLERS

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Alkaline agents, mild acids, moisture.

Harmful Substances: Gasoline, lighter fluid, Solvent floor finishes and cleaners, Turpentine.

Benefits: Durable

Precautions: Avoid oils or solvents; they will attack the binder and cause colors to bleed; avoid excessive wetting to prevent tile warping; avoid scratching, cannot remove; brittle at extremely low temperatures; use furniture rests to protect against indentations

Use & Care:

1. Use mild detergent or soap.
2. Rinse with clear water.
3. Dry immediately with mop or wet/dry vacuum.

LINOLEUM

Components: CORK, OIL ROSIN BACKING, PIGMENTS, RESINS, WOOD FLOOR

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Grease, Oils

Harmful Substances: Abrasives, detergents, harsh alkaline, solvents.

Benefits: Durable

Precautions: Avoid excess wetting; use adequate furniture rests to avoid indentations.

Use & Care:

1. Use a mild detergent solution: avoid alkaline solutions.
2. Rinse with clear water.
3. Remove water immediately with wet/dry vacuum.

RUBBER

Components: ASBESTOS FIBRE, PIGMENTS, SYNTHETIC RUBBER

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Acids, many stains, milk alkalines.

Harmful Substances: Alkaline, Gasoline, Kerosene, Naptha, Oils, Solvent agents, Turpentine.

Benefits: Anti-slip, Durable, Flexible (minimal cracking); Won't warp or buckle.

Precautions: Air will dry and crack rubber tile; avoid direct sunlight; lubricating oils cause colors to bleed; tiles can become dull and "chalky".

Use & Care:

1. Use a mild detergent solution,
2. Rinse.
3. Remove water promptly.

VINYL:

Components: FILLERS, MATRIX RESIN, PIGMENTS

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Alkaline, Grease, Mild acids, Moisture, Oil.

Harmful Substances: Abrasives, grit, sand scouring agents; Solvent floor finishes and cleaners.

Benefits: Can tolerate constant wetting exposure to sun, extreme temperatures, durable, low cost.

Precautions: Avoid excessive wetting to prevent tile warping; Avoid scratching, cannot remove; Brittle at extremely low temperatures; Use furniture rests to protect against indentations.

Use & Care:

1. Use a neutral detergent solution.
2. Rinse.
3. Dry with a wet/dry vacuum.

CERAMIC/QUARRY:

Components: CLAY BAKED INTO THE HARDNESS OF STONE

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Alkaline salts, Oils, Paint, Epoxies, Lacquers, Soaps, Steel Wool.

Harmful Substances: Harsh alkaline agents

Precautions: Ceramic tile is very durable but the grout base is susceptible to crystalline salt damage. Avoid agents harmful to cement grout, Ice melting compounds

Use & Care:

1. Use neutral cleaner to avoid damage to grout; apply with mop.
2. Remove cleaning solution; rinse thoroughly.
3. Clean grout with grit brush.
4. Application of a sealer is not necessary, but will protect exposed grout Use a water base sealer.

CONCRETE:

Components: CRUSHED ROCK, PEBBLES, SAND, WATER

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Very poor resistance capabilities if not sealed.

Harmful Substances: Acids, salts

Benefits: Durable, fire resistant, handles heavy traffic, low cost, low maintenance, smooth.

Precautions: Avoid colored coating in moisture or high traffic areas; Neutralize excess alkalinity before painting or sealing; Very porous; should be sealed immediately to avoid dusting and deep penetration of oil and dirt.

Use & Care:

1. Use a neutral cleaner.
2. For stubborn soil accumulations, use a slightly alkaline solution.
3. Never use an acid solution; concrete is soluble in acids.

MARBLE:

Components: CARBONATED OF LIME, CRYSTALLIZED ROCK

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Minimal resistance capabilities, stains easily with easy removal.

Harmful substances: Acid cleaners, Ammonia, Harsh alkaline agents, metals, oil, sand, abrasives, Soaps.

Benefits: Attractive

Precautions: Seal with penetrating sealer.

Use & Care:

1. Use a neutral cleaner.
2. Rinse thoroughly
3. Dry with soft cloth to avoid streaking.

TERRAZZO:

Components: CRUSHED AGGREGATE, GRANITE, MARBLE, QUARTZ

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Animal fats, resistance capability, extremely poor if not sealed.

Harmful Substances: Alkaline agents, epoxies, floor oils, paints, powdered scouring, cleansers, steel wool, strong acids.

Benefits: Attractive, cool in summer, durable, low maintenance, warm in winter.

Precautions: Very porous; coating advisable.

Use & Care:

1. Use a neutral detergent.
2. Damp mop.
3. Air dry.

WOOD TYPES:

Components: MOST COMMON - MAPLE, OAK; THREE MAIN TYPE- BLOCK, PARQUET, PLANK

Resistance to Soil & Chemicals: Capability dependent upon how the floor has been sealed.

Harmful Substances: Abrasives, Alkaline agents, dampness, oils, soap & detergents.

Benefits: Attractive, durable, floor adapts well to building renovation, warm.

Use & Care:

Floor must be sealed before any maintenance program can be used.

1. Sweep, dust mop (water treated) or damp mop in commercial settings,
2. Wood block for flooring; use a neutral cleaner,
3. Never clean wood floor with soap and water.