



Rubber Flooring and Stair Tread Maintenance Data

Burke and Endura Rubber Flooring Products And Special Maintenance Recommendations

This document addresses normal maintenance and **Special Maintenance Situations** that may call for procedures outside of normal maintenance recommendations.

Burke and Endura Rubber Flooring products are the longest wearing, most beautiful, most forgiving and toughest rubber floors available. Our Rubber Flooring's built-in emerging waxes help release dirt, grime, gum and tobacco tars and allow it to produce a continuous luster for years without waxing. Even tile that has not been cleaned in some time will quickly brighten when cleaned as instructed.

Proper and regular maintenance procedures are important in order to ensure maximum savings from Our Rubber Flooring's self-waxing qualities. Our Rubber Flooring's natural, reemerging waxes are much like the natural reemerging oils in your skin. Both Our Rubber Flooring and your skin work better with proper care to function efficiently. Skin exposed to strong detergents or solvents becomes dry. Using strong detergents on Our Rubber Flooring can remove its emerging waxes temporarily.

This Maintenance Instruction Sheet is divided into three sections:

1. Maintenance for newly-installed tile during its 30 day break-in period
2. Ongoing maintenance after its 30 day break-in period
3. Special maintenance situations.

Within each section of this sheet, methods and equipment needed to properly maintain small, medium and large areas of are reviewed. **All maintenance methods recommended apply equally to Our Rubber Flooring tiles and stair treads.** Small to medium-sized areas usually require the most individual pieces of equipment and the most man hours per square foot. Automatic machines are available for medium and large installations, where one operator can quickly apply, scrub and remove detergent solution in one operation.

SECTION 1 - Maintenance for Newly-Installed Tile during its 30 Day Break-In Period

During Our Rubber Flooring's break-in period (the 30 days immediately following its installation) Our Rubber Flooring undergoes a maturing process that makes it easier to maintain, produces less "tracking" and results in a brighter luster. During this time, tile and treads will not look as bright nor be as easy to maintain as when it has completely matured or cured.

Our Rubber Flooring may tend to "track" dirt during this period. However, it will become brighter with each successive maintenance event. This is completely normal for new rubber tile and treads. Therefore, initially do not over clean or over scrub and do not apply waxes or coatings of any kind, except as discussed later. After the tile or treads have been installed, wait at least 72 hours for urethane, epoxy or one-part adhesive to completely cure before initial cleaning.

Adhesive Removal: Excess adhesive should have been removed as Our Rubber Flooring tiles or stair treads were being installed. If one-part adhesive residue is still evident, remove with mineral spirits. Cured epoxy or urethane adhesive, however, cannot be removed from Our Rubber Flooring's surface. Wipe dry. Although some temporary dulling may result, luster will soon reappear with normal maintenance.

For tile or tread installations of all sizes, begin by sweeping the tiles with a medium-soft bristle push broom or dry mop. A scrubbing machine not exceeding a speed of 350 rpm and equipped with a 22 gauge flagged nylon brush can be used on tile.

Brushes: Appropriate wet cleaning brushes are available to fit most floor scrubbing machines. It is important to use a "flagged (split ends or sanded ends of fibers) nylon" cleaning brush with open spaces and flexible brush ends to clean the high and low surfaces of Our Rubber Flooring tile without stripping the natural migrating waxes off of the studs. Recommended wet cleaning brushes:

Carlisle Sanitary Maintenance Products; Phone: 608-269-2151
Flo Pac Brush; 800-277-3780 or 610-277-5070

Detergent: Prepare the recommended neutral detergent, the key to good maintenance. Neutral means a pH of 7 to 8 measured after the detergent has been added to warm water. pH can be easily determined using litmus paper which, when dipped into properly mixed and diluted solution, changes color to reveal the proper pH level.

For moderate construction soil during the first cleaning operation, dilute exactly 4 ounces of detergent per gallon of water. Remember, more is not better. Apply the detergent solution to Our Rubber Flooring with a rayon mop or with a deck brush or hand brush. Allow the solution to stand for between 5 and 10 minutes.

On small installations: scrub the tile with the applied solution, using a hand brush, deck brush or scrubbing machine. Note that mopping alone will not work on rubber flooring. Brushing and scrubbing are an essential part of rubber floor maintenance. Wet vacuum or mop up the solution.

On large installations: for large newly-installed areas, automatic scrubbing machines of various sizes can be used with one operator to simultaneously apply, scrub and remove solution. Again a 22 gauge, flagged nylon brush should be used for scrubbing. Mix 4 ounces of the neutral floor cleaning detergent per gallon of warm water and pour this solution into the automatic scrubber. Apply the solution to the floor with a mop or with the scrubbing machine with its vacuum system off. Allow the cleaning solution to remain on the tile for 5 to 10 minutes. Scrub again, but this time use the vacuum system to remove the spent solution. Remember, during the first month, scrub new tile weekly or as needed. After the first scrub, use a detergent mix of 2 ounces per gallon of water.

Detergents: There may be other suitable sources of neutral cleaners. But Taski, a product from JohnsonDiversey, who has been working with rubber flooring since the 1940's, seems to be the most suitable product we can recommend. They and their distributors is the preferred source for flooring solutions and service. Taski can be secured through JohnsonDiversey at 1-800-558-2332.

Stair Treads: Cleaning newly-installed Endura rubber stair treads, whether round, square, safety or diamond designs, requires essentially the same procedures as for new tile. First, remove excess installation adhesive with mineral spirits and wipe dry. Sweep the treads with a medium-soft bristle broom or dry mop. Next, prepare the recommended neutral detergent, with a pH of 7 to 8, by diluting 4 ounces of detergent per gallon of water. Apply the detergent solution to the stair treads with a rayon mop or with a deck brush or hand brush. Allow the solution to stand for between 5 and 10 minutes. Scrub the treads with the applied solution, using a hand brush or a small portable scrubber. Then, remove the solution with a wet vacuum machine. Finally, wipe the treads down with a soft, absorbent hand towel. Wait 3 days until treads have finally cured before attempting to brush the tiles or treads for added luster.

SECTION 2 - Ongoing Endura Maintenance After its 30 Day Break-In Period

Ongoing wet cleaning is virtually the same process as cleaning newly installed tiles and treads, except that Our Rubber Flooring is much easier to clean and will be more forgiving.

Begin ongoing maintenance by thoroughly sweeping the tiles or treads with a push broom or mopping it with a dry mop. Mix a neutral floor cleaning detergent with a pH of 7 to 8 in warm water. The dilution rate for light soil is only 2 ounces per gallon of water. For heavily soiled flooring, use only 3 to 4 ounces per gallon of water. Keep these measurements accurate. Remember, more is not better. The pH level of a detergent solution can be accurately tested using litmus paper.

Small and Medium Sized Installations: Apply detergent solution with a deck brush or with a rayon mop. Let the solution stand for approximately 5 to 10 minutes before scrubbing. Do not allow it to dry. After 5 to 10 minutes, scrub the surface with a deck brush or single-disk scrubbing machine. Then remove the solution with a mop or wet vacuum.

Large Installations: Use an automatic scrubber with a 22 gauge flagged nylon brush. An automatic machine reduces labor costs by using one operator to simultaneously apply, scrub then wet vacuum the solution. Apply solution with the machine, using vacuum and scrub operations simultaneously.

Cleaning machines specifically designed for use on rubber flooring feature very powerful wet vacuums needed for three-dimensional flooring surfaces. Cleaning machines with strong vacuuming capabilities will help remove all traces of wetness.

When using an automatic scrubber in heavily soiled areas apply the solution and scrub with the machine in vacuum-off position. Let the solution stand for 5 to 10 minutes. Then, using no additional solution, rescrub with the vacuum on. Let the floor dry, and then check the luster level. Our Rubber Flooring should be clean and, when dry, have good luster. In succeeding weeks of cleaning, its luster will increase if the correct pH-balanced detergent solution has been used and the tiles have been properly scrubbed and wet-vacuumed.

After Our Rubber Flooring's 30 day break-in period, our natural migrating waxes will have emerged. Dry brushing is normally not necessary. However, if added luster is desired, dry brush with a natural bristle bassine bristle brush. Dry polishing brushes include "union fiber," Tampico or Bassine bristle brushes.

Small Area Polishing: For polishing small areas, hand-towel, use a soft bath towel wrapped around a push broom, or a small single-disk polishing machine with a bassine brush.

Medium Area Polishing: Brush or dry-polish medium-sized areas with a single disk polishing machine of up to 350 rpm's equipped with a bassine natural bristle brush. This brush is specifically designed to be used dry.

Large Area Polishing: For polishing larger areas, use an automatic scrubbing machine equipped with a dry bassine natural bristle brush.

Precautions:

- Do not use gasoline, turpentine or acetone for spot removal.
- Do not use abrasive scrubbing or buffing pads or steel wool.
- Do not use non-flagged brushes, which are too stiff for rubber tiles.
- Do not apply waxes or acrylics except as instructed.
- Do not use strong solvent cleaners such as Lestoil, Top Job, Pine Sol, Spic and Span or similar products.

SECTION 3 - Special Endura Maintenance Needs

If Our Rubber Flooring has been subjected to improper maintenance procedures, the tiles and treads will look dull because their accumulated surface wax deposits have been stripped away. Tiles and treads in this condition will show "tracking" because Our Rubber Flooring's soil-releasing surface waxes have been removed by excessive scrubbing or chemical over-concentration. Fortunately, our natural waxes will resurface within 30 days. This is like having chapped rough skin after being exposed to strong detergents or solvents. As with your hands, a conditioner can assist in renewing the skin until the body's natural oils can take over.

To help restore Our Rubber Flooring tile to its normal luster and condition, first try dry brushing the tiles with a bassine natural bristle brush. If, however, all of Our Rubber Flooring's surface wax has been removed, brush polishing will be next to impossible because of brush resistance to the rubber tile. If this accidental over cleaning has left the tiles stripped, or even dull and sticky, they will track soil.

Again as with chapped hands, one application of a conditioning solution will help speed recovery. Recommended solutions include Taski Wi-Wax and Taski Ombra. Both products are an acrylic, medium-luster reconditioning surface solution with a luster similar to Our Rubber Flooring. The products are resilient and will not flake off, unless the tile was not thoroughly cleaned.

This surface reconditioning process will allow Our Rubber Flooring's natural waxes to automatically resurface in about 30 days. A coating of Wi-Wax or Ombra will wear off with normal foot traffic in 30 days and no further coatings should be needed.

Application: After the tiles have dried thoroughly, use a rayon mop to apply one even coat of Taski Wi-Wax or Ombra and then let dry.

Other Special Maintenance Situations, such as spot cleaning, gum, tar, black heel and scuff marks and unneeded waxing, the following procedures are recommended.

For spot cleaning water soluble stains, milk, coffee or food, spray-mist the tiles or treads with a gentle glass cleaner, such as Windex or Glass-Plus. When dry, buff the area with a soft dry towel to help restore luster.

Gum Removal: To remove gum in large installations, use a hot water, high pressure washer, then vacuum the excess solution. For small areas, apply a gum remover, such as Dissolve-It by Castex or Citrus Express. After the gum has softened, remove it with a wood, plastic or Teflon spatula. Wipe clean with an absorbent cloth. Some temporary dulling may result. If so, spray-apply a small amount of Ombra to the dulled area. Remove excess Ombra with just one wipe of a soft, absorbent towel. Our Rubber Flooring's built-in waxes in cleaned area will reemerge within 30 days. Buff the dulled area to match Our Rubber Flooring's luster.

Black Heel Mark Removal: Black heel marks may appear on Our Rubber Flooring tiles, usually when they are new or under 30 days old. Such marks can be removed with mineral spirits, leaving the cleaned spot temporarily somewhat duller on the surface. Spray or wipe Ombra on the spot, but use sparingly. Remove excess with one wipe of a soft, absorbent towel. Remember, new Our Rubber Flooring's built-in waxes will reemerge within 30 days after installation, at which time it will be far less susceptible to black heel marks and scuffs.

Scuff Mark Removal: Like black heel marks, may also appear on Our Rubber Flooring during its 30 day break-in period. These usually disappear or can be removed with the normal wet-cleaning process. Luster can then be enhanced with dry brushing.

Tar Stain Removal: Tar can be particularly harmful to all rubber tile. It will permanently stain or yellow Our Rubber Flooring if not removed quickly with a soft, absorbent towel dampened with mineral spirits. Some temporary dulling may

result. If so, apply a small amount of Ombra to the dulled area.

Top Coating or Waxing: Applying floor finishes to Our Rubber Flooring to produce an artificial shine is totally unnecessary and is a waste of time and money. Our Rubber Flooring's natural internal migrating waxes will prevent ordinary acrylic waxes or top coatings from sticking to its surface. The cracked acrylic wax coating will look terrible and trap dirt.

Stripping: If despite all instructions, an incompatible acrylic has been applied to Our Rubber Flooring, the top-coating should be removed using an appropriate stripper diluted for light or medium wax removal. A product called Taski Ice-It or similar stripper should be used.

Apply the stripper to Our Rubber Flooring with a rayon mop and let stand for 5 to 10 minutes. Scrub with a deck scrub brush or a single-disk or automatic scrubbing machine equipped with a flagged 22 gauge nylon bristle brush. As an alternative, anything less in abrasiveness than a pink or beige pad can be used ... if only in moderation. Check results in a small area before proceeding.

Remove spent solution with a wet vacuum, a slightly dampened rayon mop, or an automatic scrubber vacuum system. Then rinse with clean water. Once thoroughly dry, if tiles show some luster, as can be seen with older installations, dry brush the tile with a bassine natural bristle brush. If the tiles look clean, but are dull and sticky, apply one coat of Taski's Ombra with a rayon mop. The Ombra coating will slowly disappear with normal cleaning and wear and Our Rubber Flooring's waxes will soon reemerge. Remember, Our Rubber Flooring does not need waxing of any kind. Have patience and allow the product's natural luster to develop over time.

High Luster Short Cut: Our Rubber Flooring matures in 30 days, at which time it becomes easier to brush and to maintain its bright, natural luster. In some cases, a bright luster is needed immediately after installation. Use a standard nylon scrubbing brush, apply Profi at 6 ounces per gallon of warm water, scrub the tile, rinse with fresh water and let dry. Then, apply two coats of Taski Ombra on the tile with a rayon mop, letting the first coat dry before applying the second. With normal use and maintenance, the tile's natural luster will take over and applications of Taski Ombra will be unnecessary.

High speed buffing of Our Rubber Flooring is possible, but only on the low vibration square profile (LVS), SimplySmooth or Sculptured profiles. This process uses a special tricycle style carriage for a high speed burnishing machine with a single disk. The machine is fitted with a soft white pad and is raised off the floor slightly so that the pad just "kisses" the tiles. It operates at speeds of up to 1100 rpm, versus the normal maximum of 350 rpm. This method provides a higher

luster than with other buffing methods. Spray small amounts of water on the tiles if you feel it helps to develop luster. Remember, this process can be used only on the profiles listed above.

Summary:

All of these maintenance recommendations are based on the best available data obtained through years of testing and field experience. However, because of variations in actual cleaners, equipment, applications or site conditions, the results may vary. Following these guidelines and recommendations will give you a good starting point. From there, your own experience and knowledge will help bring out the best results. It is our aim to help you maintain Our Rubber Flooring's luster through years of service without waxing.