

## CLEANING GUIDELINES FOR YOUR NEWLY INSTALLED FLOORING SYSTEM

### WHY CLEAN YOUR FLOOR?

**Appearance:** Naturally, your floor will look it's best when it is clean. By installing a polymeric floor in your facility, you are telling people that you care about your image. By instituting a scheduled cleaning program, the floor will continue to look and perform as it did when it was first installed. Dust and dirt will dull your floor surface unless removed on a regular basis. Train employee's to avoid dragging heavy equipment or pallets across your floor and avoid spinning fork truck wheels.

**Safety:** No matter how aggressive the texture of your floor, if it is not cleaned properly, it can present a slip hazard. Emulsifying, rinsing, and drying your floor properly will reduce the risk of a slip and fall incident.

**Service Life:** The lifetime of your floor will be directly proportional to how well you clean it. Particularly in aggressive-use (i.e. kitchens and machine shops) contaminates such as oils, dirt, and grease work with water and bacteria to attack your floor. This will lead to extended damage of the floor.

### WHAT TO CLEAN YOUR FLOOR WITH

**Mechanical scrubbers:** Self contained mechanical scrubbers are the most efficient and cost-effective method.

Pay particular attention to the type of cleaning pads or brushes you use. The pad/brushes should not mark or scratch the surface of the floor. The 3M red or blue cleaning pads work well.

**Spray cleaning / power:** In most cases, power washing is combined with chemical cleaning. Hot water under pressure is insufficient to emulsify oils and greases. Power wash, scrub with a chemical, then rinse!

**Mops:** Mops are generally ineffective except for smooth finish floors in the mildest cleaning solutions. It is important to change the cleaning solution and rinse your mop often.

**Deck broom:** A hard bristle deck broom is an effective cleaning tool for most small applications. Soak the floor with cleaner water and allow the cleaner to sit on surface for 10-15 min. Scrub the floor with the deck broom. After scrubbing, rinse or and vacuum the cleaning solution from the floor.

**Wet/Dry Vacuum:** In areas that do not have drains (if mechanical scrubber is not available), it is important to remove all of the cleaning solution from the floor. Do not allow the floor to air dry.

**Squeegee:** Use a flat squeegee to move the cleaning solution to drains. A flat squeegee will leave the floor fairly dry.

### CLEANERS

**Degreaser:** The recommended cleaner for polymer floors is a Butyl degreaser. This product can be purchased at any janitorial supply facility. This cleaner should be used in areas with high oil and grease build-up. (i.e. kitchens, machine shops, automotive repair areas, etc.). It is most effective when diluted with warm/hot water (3 quarts to 3 gallons water) and allowed to sit on the floor for 10-15 minutes before scrubbing. A thorough rinsing is necessary. If not completely rinsed, a white residue will appear on the surface.

### BREAK-IN PERIOD AND WHEN TO CLEAN YOUR FLOOR

High performance floor coatings can require one to two weeks to obtain their maximum degree of cure. Urethanes tend to take even longer to cure. Thus, optimum chemical and abrasion resistance properties are not necessarily present during the first several days after installation. DO NOT APPLY WATER OR ANY CHEMICAL CLEANERS during this break-in period. How often you need to clean your floor depends on the type of contaminates the floor is exposed to. Frequent cleaning is recommended for optimum performance. The more harsh the environment, the more frequently you should clean your floors. Dust and dirt will dull the finish if not removed on a regular basis. Chemical spills such as battery acids, phosphoric acids, dyes, etc., in many cases, will stain without otherwise damaging the floor. We recommend cleaning chemical spills immediately.