

RUBBER CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDLINE

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INTRODUCTION

SIGNATURE rubber flooring should always be maintained in clean and polished condition. The surface of the flooring should be kept free of grease, gasoline, paint, paint thinner, solvents, mineral oils, alkaline substances, bleaching agents and other harmful chemicals. In case of spillage, the flooring must be cleaned of such substances immediately. To avoid scratching, heavy furniture should not be dragged on the flooring. When installed with rubber based contact adhesives, the flooring must not be exposed to excessive moisture or water and if such is the case, flooring must be vacuum dried immediately. As a precaution against accidental damage, rubber flooring installations should be done when all other decorating trade activities are completed.

REGULAR CLEANING

SIGNATURE RUBBER FLOORING should be brushed or vacuumed free of dirt and dust, stains removed by a damp cloth or mop, using soap or a neutral detergent and rinsed by a damp cloth or mop. The flooring should then be dried with a dry cloth or mop and prepared for polishing. Solvents, petroleum derivatives, oil, grease or polish removing chemicals, alkaline substances and such chemicals harmful to rubber must never be used to clean the flooring as these will greatly harm the flooring and the adhesive. Signature's rubber flooring can then be sealed using a metal crosslink co-polymer based emulsion.

Dust and dirt should be brushed or vacuumed. Stains removed with a damp cloth or mop, followed by a dry cloth or mop or a special machine for cleaning and polishing the floor may be utilised.

The daily cleaning process should be repeated, using warm water and a Ph neutral detergent. The flooring must then be dried and a suitable type of rubber flooring polish applied. Water based emulsion types should be used, as waxes containing solvents can be harmful to the flooring. The applied polish is then burnished, using a dry mop or a mechanical polishing machine.

POLISHING

A suitable type of polish, such as a metal crosslink co-polymer emulsion in water solution should be applied to the flooring using a dry cloth or mop and the flooring should be left to dry. When dry, the flooring should be burnished using a dry cloth or a polishing machine. This process must be repeated at least two or three times consecutively, until a satisfactory surface finish is obtained. Polishing the flooring before initial use is highly recommended.

Polishes containing, petroleum derivatives, solvents, alkaline substances and chemicals harmful to rubber must never be used as they can damage the flooring and the adhesive. When using the polish, the manufacturer's instructions should be followed.

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NEW SIGNATURE RUBBER – INITIAL CARE

Preparation

The removal of any adhesive on the face of the tile should be completed by the flooring contractor while the adhesive is fresh.

1. If residue of the adhesive is still uncured or soft, remove with mineral spirits or warm water on a cloth.
2. If the adhesive is hard, removal is almost impossible, but the following procedures may be helpful.
 - Apply mineral spirits with a cloth.
 - Allow to stand for five minutes.
 - Chip off adhesive with either a wooden or plastic spatula – do not use steel wool or abrasive pad.
 - Wipe dry.

Some dullness may result, but lustre will reappear with normal maintenance.

Initial Cleaning

Caution: Allow at least 72 hours for complete adhesive cure prior to initial wet cleaning of SIGNATURE RUBBER FLOORING.

1. Sweep the floor clean.
2. Prepare a neutral floor cleaning solution (pH of 7-8). Signature recommends the use of a combination cleaner and maintainer during the break-in period using a recommended detergent mixed in warm water. For light to moderate soil, the dilution ratio is usually 4 liquid mls per litre of warm water (see Recommended Cleaning Detergents).
3. Apply the solution with a deck brush or with a nylon or rayon mop. Allow the solution to stand for five minutes.
4. Scrub after 5 minutes.
Small installations – Use a deck brush.
Large installations – Use a single or double brush floor scrubbing machine.
Use a 22 gauge flagged nylon bristle brush or microfiber cleaning pad fit for the scrubbing machine (see Recommended Brushes and Pads). Scrubbing RPM should not exceed 350.
5. Wet vacuum or mop up the solution.
6. Rinse with cold water and then remove all water.
7. For added lustre, dry brush after the flooring is thoroughly dries (at least 2-3 hours).

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During the Signature Break-In Period (the 30 days immediately following its installation) Signature Rubber undergoes a maturing process whereby the natural, emerging waxes have not yet reached the surface. Special care should be taken to not "over clean" or use harsh detergents (high pH) which may reduce the emergence of the natural waxes. SIGNATURE RUBBER FLOORING may not look bright, nor be easy to maintain or it may tend to "track" during this period. To help utilize the built in waxes and provide a bright appearance, Signature recommends the use of a combination cleaner and maintainer such as Gemi Seal during this break-in period. After the Signature rubber floor has been thoroughly cleaned and dry using a neutral pH detergent, a one to one solution of combination cleaner and maintainer applied to the Signature rubber floor will enhance the appearance and make subsequent cleanings easier. Apply with standard mopping equipment. Note: after installation, wait at least 72 hours for urethane, epoxy or contact adhesive to cure before initial cleaning.

REGULAR MAINTENANCE AFTER INITIAL CLEANING

Wet Cleaning

1. Sweep the floor.
2. Prepare a Ph neutral floor cleaning solution (pH of 7-8) using a recommended detergent mixed in warm water. For light soil, the dilution ratio is usually 5 **liquid mls per litre of warm water** (see Recommended Cleaning Detergents).
3. Apply the solution with a deck brush or with a nylon or rayon mop. Allow the solution to stand for five minutes. If an automatic scrubber is used, apply the solution with the machine.
4. Scrub the wet surface with a deck brush or automatic scrubber with the vacuum turned off.
5. Remove the solution with a mop or wet vacuum or with the scrubbing machine with the vacuum turned on.
6. For added lustre, dry brush after the flooring is thoroughly dries (at least 2-3 hours).
Small installations – Use a bath towel wrapped around a push broom.
Large installations – Use a polishing machine (up to 350 rpm) using a Union Fibre or bristle brush (see Recommended Brushes).

CAUTION:

- DO NOT use strong solvent cleaners such as Lestoil, Top Job, Pinesol or similar products.
- NEVER use gasoline, turpentine or acetone!
- DO NOT use black, brown, green, red or beige pads!
- DO NOT use cleaning and polishing machines that exceed 350 RPM!
- DO NOT apply unapproved acrylics, waxes or top coating.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Spot Cleaning & Black Scuff Mark Removal

- Spray Windex or similar mild solution on area to be cleaned.
- Wipe clean with a soft dry cloth or towel.
- Buff area with a soft dry towel to help return the lustre.

Removing Gum

- Spray Orange Dissolvent on the stuck gum.
- Remove with a wood or Teflon spatula.
- Remove residue of gum with mineral spirits.
- Buff area with soft dry towel to help return the lustre.

Special Cleaning Questions or Circumstances

If Signature has been subjected to any of the following; the tiles will look very dull and will pick up tracked soil easily.

- Over scrubbing
- Solvent or acid spill
- Over concentration of cleaner
- Abrasive pad or too stiff a brush

Remedy

To help restore the tile to its normal lustre and condition, please follow these instructions:

1. Tiles must now be scrubbed clean. Use Taski Profi or Signature Clean.
2. With a mop, apply a one to one mixture of Taski Wi-Wax evenly onto the cleaned tile.
3. Normal use of Signature does not require the use of floor finishes. Signature's internal waxes will provide lustre, which can be enhanced by dry brushing.

Recommended Cleaning Detergents

There may be other suitable sources for neutral cleaners. However, these have not been tested by Signature. Remember (very important), neutral means a pH of 7 to 8.

Recommended Brushes and Pads for Scrubbing Machines

A. Wet Cleaning Brush

Specify a 22 gauge flagged nylon bristle for cleaning, available from:

B. Wet Cleaning Pad

Microfiber cleaning pad

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C. Dry Polishing Brush

(be sure to use this brush dry)

The recommendations herein are based on the best available data obtained through testing and field experience. However, because of variations in actual applications or site conditions, the results may vary.

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