



This document is intended for professional use to provide a starting point for Commercial Cleaning, Care & Maintenance of these products, each unique application may require additional or further steps to ensure complete satisfaction. Please refer to the general information and then the table of contents for the specific product information. Refer to the product website to confirm that you have the most current revision of this document. If you need a project specific maintenance document or if there are any questions or concerns, please reach out to [solutions@rhctechical.com](mailto:solutions@rhctechical.com).

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### **CLEANING & MAINTAINING SOLID VINYL FLOORING**

These are products designed to be utilized without the application of a floor finish. But, to provide a flooring surface that does not need a floor finish, it is necessary from the beginning to implement a well established maintenance program (cleaning and maintenance). And this begins with determining how you want to maintain the solid vinyl flooring.

Understanding there is a difference between cleaning and maintenance. **Cleaning** is meant to be understood as the process of removing unwanted substances, such as dirt and other impurities, from flooring and/or service environments. **Maintenance** is meant to be understood as the routine recurring work required to keep flooring in such condition that it may be continuously used, at its original or designed capacity and efficiency for its intended purpose. Starting with the **Initial Cleaning / Post Installation** process, this process cleans and then begins to naturally seal the surface making it less likely to become heavily soiled, as quickly, from normal foot traffic.

**Without performing the proper initial cleaning, the flooring can have a poor visual appearance, become soiled quicker, scuff more, and therefore harder to clean due to the surface of the flooring not being conditioned properly for use.**

After the initial cleaning, these products, like all flooring, also require daily cleaning and routine maintenance with cleaning equipment to maintain the desired appearance. The frequency of cleaning and routine maintenance will depend upon the amount and type of traffic in the area. However, maintenance may be more frequent within the first year of installation. Over time, solid vinyl flooring products will see a reduced frequency of the scrubbing portions of the routine maintenance and ease into removal of scuffs due to the maturation of the product surface.

Solid Vinyl Tile products while looking great coming out of the box do require aggressive initial cleaning / post installation procedures to condition the flooring for use. These procedures are necessary due to the manufacturing process and nature of the product being directional. With the completion of this process, solid vinyl flooring can be maintained without the use of site applied finishes. During the installation phase, it is recommended to lay the tiles in the direction of the directional arrows on the back of the tiles which indicate the direction in which the material was manufactured. The manufacturing process creates and leaves microscopic peaks and valleys on the surface of the tile that can not only catch light differently and appear shaded but can also grab dirt and hold it in the surface due to the porosity created during the process. This also creates more opportunity for scuffing of the surface and increases the difficulty of routine care and maintenance.

The aggressive initial cleaning process removes the microscopic peaks and valleys (the directionality) on the surface and naturally creates a sealed non-porous surface through the process. After cleaning, the oils and waxes in the product migrate to the surface from the heat of the burnishing process, which helps to create this smooth surface that allows dirt and debris to sit on the surface for easier removal through the routine maintenance processes. This natural finishing is in place of the application of additional finishes applied on site that will need to be removed and reapplied.

We are aware that each facility has unique needs, wants, and desires for its flooring products and sometimes it is necessary to utilize finishes to assist with the care & maintenance of the area. While the solid vinyl tile does not require a finish to maintain the flooring, there are definitely times when the appropriate products should be part of the care & maintenance program. If the flooring is in an area that cannot or will not be maintained using a rotary floor machine or auto scrubber, we recommend the application of a site-applied floor finish or sealer type product.



### **REQUIRED INITIAL CLEANING / POST INSTALLATION**

Job site conditions will cause dirt and debris to be present on the installed flooring. Initial Cleaning should only be performed after the prescribed timeframe for the product and adhesives utilized. However, the flooring should be protected after installation prior to the completion of the Initial Cleaning.

1. Remove any protective coverings before maintenance and use a dust mop to remove dirt, dust or debris.
2. Create a cleaning solution with the chosen product listed in the Initial / routine section of the table below and clean potable water according to the dilution ratios from the manufacturers label information based on soiling conditions.
3. Apply the cleaning solution using a clean mop or pump-up sprayer to apply a cleaning solution to the area and let it stand for 5-10 minutes, **DO NOT FLOOD THE FLOOR.**
4. If flooring is heavily soiled, re-apply the solution and allow the cleaner to remain on the surface for an additional 5-10 minutes before scrubbing and removing.
5. **Using a low-speed rotary floor machine (175 – 350 RPM)**, wet scrub the floor using a Scotch-Brite™ Surface Preparation Pad provided by 3M or equivalent. Depending upon construction traffic and/or soiling, this process may need to be repeated multiple times to achieve the desired results.
6. Use an auto-scrubber, wet vacuum, or clean mop to remove all excess cleaning solution slurry from the flooring surface, **EXTRACTION Machines work better for this versus Mops.**
7. Rinse the area with clean, cool water.
8. While the floor is still wet from the rinse water, **use a low-speed rotary floor machine (175 – 350 RPM)** to wet scrub the floor using a 3M 5100 Red Cleaning Pad or equivalent.
9. Rinse the area with clean, cool water and let the floor dry completely. Ensure the flooring area is clean and that all cleaning residue has been removed. **This may require additional cleaning processes and/or additional rinses.**
10. Dry buff the area with a **low-speed rotary floor machine (175 – 350 RPM)** using a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad or equivalent may be used. Ensure to utilize multiple passes in opposite directions.

**The more consecutive days this buffing process can be repeated, the better the results will be. We would recommend a minimum of three buffing processes prior to placing the area into service.**

**Alternative Burnishing**, after the area has cooled, and if a higher sheen is desired, use a high-speed rotary floor machine (1500 RPM) to burnish the area using a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad, 3M 3300 Natural Blend White, or 3M 3500 Natural Blend Tan Pad or equivalent. Other burnishing pads can be used if they are for burnishing. Keep in mind the machine needs to stay moving and a higher shine can show subfloor irregularities. **The more consecutive days this buffing process can be repeated, the better the results will be.**

### **OPTIONAL FLOOR FINISH RECOMMENDATIONS**

As mentioned above there are times when we would recommend a Floor Finish be utilized. A Floor Finish provides a higher sheen, and the ability to be easily repaired with the daily scuffing and scratching that occurs in high traffic areas within the daily requirements of the care & maintenance program.

1. Complete the Initial Cleaning / Post Installation process as described above.
2. Select the desired floor finish product from the recommendations below.
3. Apply the desired floor finish product per the label instructions according to the manufacturer.
4. It is our recommendation to apply a minimum of two coats, but additional may be necessary or required based on site conditions.
5. Allow the area to completely, while restricting all traffic to minimize contamination.

**When the flooring appears to be worn or inconsistent in regards to gloss or when the flooring is no longer responding to the daily cleaning, the build up of the finish will need to be removed following the recommended procedures from the manufacturer using one of the Floor Finish Remover products listed below.**

### **OPTIONAL SEALER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Long-term permanent solutions are also available to simplify the care and maintenance of these products. These permanent coatings can be applied to the products. Options suitable for resilient flooring include Pro-Tect Resilient Ultra Matte or Gloss from XL North and



NeverStrip Micron Seal from NeverStrip Floor Coatings. Should you elect to utilize either of these products, please contact the manufacturer or Technical Services for guidance and recommendations.

### DAILY / ROUTINE CLEANING

Routine maintenance is seen as something that needs to be done regularly. Routine could be daily, twice a week, weekly, etc. Given that each installation is different, the frequency of the routine will be determined by the following factors: type of soil or debris, type of facility, location within the facility, and use of the facility. It is likely the routine can and will change depending on factors such as time of year, increased or decreased use, etc. With the application of a finish, this routine should be done at a minimum of twice a month, if possible, to maintain the desired look of the flooring. **DAILY CLEANING IS RECOMMENDED.**

1. Use a dust mop to remove dirt, dust or debris.
2. Create a cleaning solution with the chosen product listed in the Initial / routine cleaning section of the table below and clean potable water according to the dilution ratios from the manufacturers label information based on soiling conditions.
3. Damp Mop the area or **Use an auto-scrubber (175 – 350 RPM)** to wet scrub the floor using a 3M 5100 Red Buffer Pad or equivalent.
4. Use an auto-scrubber, wet vacuum, or clean mop to remove all excess cleaning solution slurry from the flooring surface. **EXTRACTION Machines work better for this versus Mops.**
5. Rinse the area with clean, cool water and let the floor dry completely.
6. If desired, after the area has cooled, dry buff area with a **low-speed rotary floor machine (175 – 350 RPM)** using a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad or equivalent may be used. Ensure to utilize multiple passes in opposite directions.

**Alternative Burnishing**, after the area has cooled, and if a higher sheen is desired, use a high-speed rotary floor machine (1500 RPM) to burnish the area using a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad, 3M 3300 Natural Blend White, or 3M 3500 Natural Blend Tan Pad or equivalent. Other burnishing pads can be used if they are for burnishing. Keep in mind the machine needs to stay moving and a higher shine can show subfloor irregularities.

### PERIODIC / DEEP / RESTORATIVE MAINTENANCE / FINISH REMOVAL

Over time, when daily cleaning and routine maintenance is not working, the flooring may require a heavy-duty cleaning to remove build-up, scuffs from shoes or minor flooring damage.

1. Use a dust mop to remove dirt, dust or debris.
2. Create a cleaning solution with the chosen product listed in the deep cleaning section of the table below and clean potable water according to the dilution ratios from the manufacturers label information based on soiling conditions or for a deep cleaning.
3. Apply the cleaning solution using a clean mop or pump-up sprayer to apply a cleaning solution to the area and let it stand for 5-10 minutes, **DO NOT FLOOD THE FLOOR.**
4. If flooring is heavily soiled, re-apply the solution and allow the cleaner to remain on the surface for an additional 5-10 minutes before scrubbing and removing.
5. **Using a low-speed rotary floor machine (175 – 350 RPM)**, wet scrub the floor using a 3M 5300 Blue Cleaning Pad or equivalent. Depending upon the condition of the flooring and/or soiling, this process may need to be repeated multiple times to achieve the desired results.
6. Use an auto-scrubber, wet vacuum, or clean mop to remove all excess cleaning solution slurry from the flooring surface, **EXTRACTION Machines work better for this versus Mops.**
7. Rinse the area with clean, cool water.
8. While the floor is still wet from the rinse water, **use a low-speed rotary floor machine (175 – 350 RPM)** to wet scrub the floor using a 3M 5100 Red Cleaning Pad or equivalent.
9. Rinse the area with clean, cool water and let the floor dry completely. Ensure the flooring area is clean and that all cleaning residue has been removed. **This may require additional cleaning processes and/or additional rinses.**
10. Dry buff the area with a **low-speed rotary floor machine (175 – 350 RPM)** using a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad or equivalent may be used. Ensure to utilize multiple passes in opposite directions.

**Alternative Burnishing**, after the area has cooled, and if a higher sheen is desired, use a high-speed rotary floor machine (1500 RPM) to burnish the area using a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad, 3M 3300 Natural Blend White, or 3M 3500 Natural Blend Tan Pad or



equivalent. Other burnishing pads can be used if they are for burnishing. Keep in mind the machine needs to stay moving and a higher shine can show subfloor irregularities.

### **PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE / FLOORING PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Utilizing an effective barrier entry way matting system and/or walk-off mats at outside entrances. Ensure mats are manufactured with non-staining backs to prevent discoloration. Walk off mats do provide a level of protection and are critical to the reduction of soil and debris levels within the facility while helping to reduce maintenance cost and protect the flooring.

Do not slide or drag anything across the flooring. When moving appliances or furniture, protect flooring from scuffing and tearing using temporary floor protection.

All furniture, fixtures, and/or moving equipment casters should be made of a high-quality soft material such as neoprene rubber designed for use on resilient flooring and must have a contact point of at least 1 square inch to aid in reduction of indentation and flooring damage.

Rolling chairs or seating at work areas should have a resilient flooring chair pad installed over the finished floor or have proper castors installed for resilient to protect floor covering.

All fixed furniture legs should have permanent felt or soft rubber floor protectors installed on all contact points and to help reduce indentation. Floor protectors must have a flat contact point of at least 1 sq. in. or 1.125 in. diameter and must cover the entire bottom surface of the furniture leg and be free of burrs and damage.

All doorstops need to be constructed of either rubber or vinyl and be free of burrs and damage.

Ensure all furniture castors, chair legs, and doorstops are clean and free of all dirt and debris. Routinely clean and/or chair castors, furniture legs, and doorstops to ensure that dirt or debris has not built up or become embedded.

If these recommendations are not followed, we can guarantee your cleaning and maintenance will be more difficult.

### **RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS**

	Initial / Routine Cleaning	Deep Cleaning	Floor Finish	Floor Finish Remover
<b>Excelsior</b>	<a href="#">NC-900 Neutral Cleaner</a>		<a href="#">Excelsior MF-940 Matte Finish</a> <a href="#">Excelsior GF-950 Gloss Finish</a>	<a href="#">FR-920 Finish Remover Technical Data</a>
<b>XL North</b>	XL APC All Purpose Cleaner		XL Matte XL 25	XL FS Floor Stripper
<b>Spartan Chemical</b>	Damp Mop Green Solutions All Purpose Cleaner	Green Solutions Industrial Cleaner	iShine On an' On	Step Down L.O.E. Stripper
<b>Diversey</b>	Profi Prominence Stride	Profi	Carefree Matte Amplify	Pro Strip Ultra Heavy-Duty Floor Stripper
<b>ECOLAB</b>	Ecolab Rinse Free Neutral pH Cleaner Ecolab High Performance Neutral Floor Cleaner		-	-
<b><i>Always follow manufacturers' labels for dilution ratios and use</i></b>				

### **SUPPORT & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

<b>Product Support Phone &amp; Email</b>	(800) 633 – 3151 / <a href="mailto:info@flexcofloors.com">info@flexcofloors.com</a>
<b>Technical Support Phone &amp; Email</b>	Excelsior - (844) 393 – 4044 / <a href="mailto:solutions@rhctechical.com">solutions@rhctechical.com</a> XL North - (888) 530 - 2259 / <a href="#">XL North</a>



# Delane & Geodesy Solid Vinyl

## CARE & MAINTENANCE

	Spartan Chemical - (800) 537 - 8990 / <a href="#">Spartan Chemical</a> Diversey - (800) 558 - 2332 / <a href="#">Diversey</a> EcoLab - (800) 352 - 5326 / <a href="#">EcoLab</a> NeverStrip Floor Coatings - (630) 330 - 1010 / <a href="http://www.neverstrip.com/">www.neverstrip.com/</a>
<b>Product Technical Documentation</b>	<a href="http://www.flexcofloors.com">www.flexcofloors.com</a>
<b>Associated or Related Documentation</b>	<a href="#">NC-900 Neutral Cleaner Technical Data</a> <a href="#">FR-920 Finish Remover Technical Data</a> <a href="#">MF-940 Matte Finish Technical Data</a> <a href="#">Excelsior GF-950 Gloss Finish Technical Data</a>

The use of the incorrect maintenance/disinfection chemistry or the incorrect use of the correct chemistry for the maintenance/disinfection of Resilient Flooring can and will cause damage to the product that is not covered by the product warranty. If you have a question about the fitness of use of other products, please contact customer service or technical services. As with any maintenance program, be sure to use proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) according to the cleaning product SDS and ensure all maintenance procedures are conducted per the cleaning products instructions. The use of Caution Tape and/or Wet Floor Signs is recommended to prevent slips and falls.

The contents contained within this Care & Maintenance Sheet may be utilized or copied into another projected related document. While this original document will remain in effect at the time of product installation, this TDS shall not be supplemented or replaced by the resulting project documentation. Any alterations to the wording or requirements contained in or derived from this document shall void all related warranties. Before accepting this document, refer to the product website to confirm that you have the most current revision. Prior to use the user must determine the suitability of our products for the intended use. The user alone assumes all risks and liability.