

Disinfection of Resilient Flooring

Resilient Flooring Materials require a disinfectant at or above a pH of 6 and at or below a pH of 10.5 when properly diluted.

Products that we have tested and recommend that fall into this quaternary disinfectant category are:

- *XL North Vital Oxide*
- *Diversey's Virex II 256 Disinfectant*
- *Ecolab Multi-Purpose Disinfectant Cleaner*
- *Spartan Chemicals HDQ Neutral*
- *Spartan Chemicals Super HDQ*

Since there are many disinfection products available today for the commercial environment, we cannot evaluate each available product for fitness of use. We have thoroughly evaluated these products and recommend their use. If you have a question about the fitness of use of other products, please contact customer service or technical services.

Products that we know will cause damage to our and other Resilient Flooring products that should not be utilized (we are not saying these products are good products or that they don't work, they are just not designed for use on Resilient Flooring):

- ***Oxivir® 5 16 - stated pH, Concentrate @ 1.0, Use Dilution of 1:16 @ 1.9***
- ***Oxivir® Tb - stated pH @ 2.2 – 3.2***

As the above statement mentions, there are a plethora of products on the market that are designed for disinfection. Our goal with this document is to inform you of what we feel is necessary to understand regarding disinfection and resilient flooring. Harsh disinfectants that are not specifically designed for flooring can and will damage flooring in as little as one use, especially those with low pH values such as 1.0 or 1.2 when diluted. These products are designed to disinfect hard surfaces that do encounter human touch and not resilient flooring products.

Flooring is categorized as a ***NONCRITICAL environmental surface*** within Health Care environments according to the CDC due to the lack of skin contact with the flooring material. This means that Low Level Disinfection is required in these areas. We feel all spaces containing resilient flooring products should be treated the same way if end users wish to disinfect.

Despite being a noncritical surface, low level disinfection requires cleaning processes (which these processes alone meet the criterial for low level disinfection according to the CDC) to be performed prior to any disinfection processes. Therefore, cleaning and disinfecting needs to be treated as two separate processes that make up a full maintenance program. We recommend that this maintenance program be personalized to meet your facility's specific needs. Therefore, all chemistries, equipment and processes must be safe to use on the flooring products but also meet cleaning and disinfection standards.

For optimal results when disinfecting our floor coverings, please follow the guidelines below for optimal results.

CLEANING THE FLOORING SURFACE FOR DISINFECTION

CLEANING THE FLOORING SURFACE as defined by the CDC removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Follow the existing guidelines published in the flooring material's care and maintenance guidelines. With resilient flooring materials, a high-quality, pH neutral cleaner is always the recommended choice but in certain circumstances, other chemistry may be recommended. If there is a situation that calls for something different or something is not working properly, please contact RHC Technical at solutions@rhctechnical.com.

Always follow the chemical manufacturer's recommendations regarding dilution ratios and DO NOT let the chemistry dry at any point during this process. Remove the slurry that is created using a wet vacuum or auto-scrubbing machine. Be sure to thoroughly rinse the flooring material with clean, fresh water.

Failure to follow the above and recommended guidelines will render the disinfection process less effective as there are organic and/or inorganic materials left behind on the surface of the flooring material. Proper cleaning decreases microbial counts, allowing the disinfection process to be more efficient.

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DISINFECTING THE FLOORING SURFACE

DISINFECTING THE FLOORING SURFACE as defined by the CDC kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

After the flooring material has been scrubbed clean and is completely dry, you can begin the disinfection process. Utilize an EPA Registered Disinfectant in accordance with the chemistry's guidelines.

Allow the solution to dwell for the recommended period (based on bacteria or virus that you are targeting). Completely rinse and remove all disinfecting chemistry from the flooring material and allow the floor to completely dry. Left behind chemistry can soften materials and lead to damage or create a film on the surface and cause scuffing.

When choosing a disinfectant to use on your flooring materials, be sure to use a high-quality, reputable branded product to ensure the performance and safety of the disinfectant. Be sure to always follow instructions and dilution ratios outlined by the chemical manufacturer.

Should you choose to perform disinfection with a chemical other than one of those listed, ensure that testing is performed prior to use by using attic stock or material installed in a non-exposed area for damage that could be done to the flooring materials. Any damage done to the flooring material from the use of an unapproved disinfectant will not be covered by the product warranty.

The use of the incorrect maintenance chemistry or the incorrect use of the correct chemistry for the maintenance 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.

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