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#### **Carpet Maintenance & Care**



In order to prolong the life of your carpet (broadloom or carpet tile) the flooring industry experts recommend the following:

**Daily dry vacuuming:** It is important to remove any loose dirt or debris from the yarn and surface of the carpet. Depending on the type of carpet, you may need to use a vacuum with a rotating brush, a beater bar or suction only.

**Encapsulation cleaning:** Depending on the amount of traffic experienced, this process is recommended every month to two months. It is fast and effective. Use a low-moisture encapsulation product designed for use through a dry foam encapsulation machine to clean and dry carpets in thirty minutes. This extends the time and reduces the need for wet extraction cleaning.

**Deep extraction cleaning:** Utilize specially-formulated extraction cleaners and machines designed for use in high-traffic education environments. This is an ideal solution for carpet upkeep. However, to reduce leaving water in the carpet product, use only as needed – possibly twice a year.

**Spot cleaning:** Specific spotter products recommended by carpet manufacturer is recommended to remove tough stains: When heavy set stains fight back, use an all-purpose, water-based spotter fortified with hydrogen peroxide. A low-residue formula will not attract or re-soil carpet assets, ensuring maximum carpet longevity.

<u>Click here</u> for additional information from one of our valued manufacturers on the maintenance of commercial broadloom carpet and carpet tile.



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#### **Luxury Vinyl Tile & Plank Maintenance & Care**



When it comes to cleaning vinyl flooring maintenance crews need to get used to NOT scrubbing and polishing as accustomed to vinyl composition tile. There is a wear layer on Luxury Vinyl Tile & Plank that should last the life of your floor.

**Routine maintenance:** Daily removal of surface dirt and debris is recommended using a vacuum and dust mop. This will prevent dirt from grinding into the surface of the LVT/LVP. The sooner spills and spots occur, they should be mopped up immediately using a neutral cleaner diluted to the recommended level by the manufacturer. Wet/damp mopping with a neutral cleaner can be done daily, weekly or as needed depending on the traffic or soil level of the area. Limited moisture should be left on the floor to dry naturally.

**Periodic maintenance:** LVT/LVP should be cleaned using a neutral cleaner and auto scrubber with a soft pad. The floor should then be rinsed with water. This can be followed by spray buffing if required to remove scuffs. The protective layer of the LVT/LVP should maintain its original gloss level. BEFORE using an auto scrubber, routine maintenance activities should be performed to prevent the dirt from being ground into the flooring surface by the scrubber.

<u>Click here</u> for an extensive maintenance guide from a valued manufacturer if you'd like to take a deeper look at how to clean and maintain commercial vinyl tile floors



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### **Vinyl Composition Tile Maintenance & Care**



In high traffic facilities, VCT was the leader in commercial vinyl flooring. Offering a budget-friendly, abrasion-resistant, through-product, durable material, VCT is commonly used in retail stores, warehouses, schools and cafeterias, it comes with a major downside: it is very high maintenance. With the introduction of LVT/ LVP, many entities are switching out VCT with LVT/LVP to avoid the tedious, high-cost maintenance of VCT.

**Routine maintenance:** The entire floor should be vacuumed and mopped regularly with a manufacturer recommended neutral cleaner to prevent the build-up of debris causing abrasions to the tile's protective polish and dulling of the finish.

**Periodic maintenance:** Using an auto scrubber, the floor must be machine scrubbed periodically and, if needed, additional coats of polish should be added. A minimum of twice a year for the polish is recommended in high traffic buildings. Restorative maintenance is required to ensure there is a sufficient protective barrier on the porous VCT. This requires chemically stripping and reapplying the tile's floor polish. This is recommended once-a-year with high traffic areas. All periodic and restorative maintenance must be performed after routine maintenance procedures to avoid dirt and debris scratching the floor surface.

Please <u>click here</u> for additional maintenance instructions from one of our valued manufacturers.



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#### **Ceramic & Porcelain Tile Maintenance & Care**



Ceramic & Porcelain tiles are high-performance and low-maintenance products with a long list of commercial applications: Educational facilities, commercial lobbies, bathrooms, hospitality facilities and more. Although LVT has taken the market by storm, offering a cost-effective alternative to tile, ceramic and porcelain tile still account for more than \$6.488 bilion in sales in the United States in 2021.

**Routine maintenance:** Dirt and debris should be vacuumed and cleaned with a neutral cleaner. Spots, paints, oils and soap can be cleaned with the spot cleaner recommended by the manufacturer. It's important to note that any soil left on the floor may erode the tile surface. Any liquids left on the surface will change the slip resistance of the tile and pose a safety risk.

**Periodic maintenance:** It is recommended tile should be deep cleaned periodically to remove mineral deposits or mold using the manufacturer-recommended cleaners. Some tile may be installed with 100% epoxy grout which still needs to be deep cleaned occasionally to remove build-up of dirt, grease soap or other types of soil and prevent grout discoloration.

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#### Rubber Sheet & Tile Maintenance & Care Part 1



**Routine maintenance:** Sweep or vacuum daily to get rid of dust and dirt. If you're sweeping, use a broom with soft bristles. If you're vacuuming, do not use a machine that has a beater brush since it could damage your floor. Sweep or vacuum the entire floor to remove any loose dirt or debris before you start any other cleaning. Try to sweep or vacuum every day so dirt never gets stuck to your floors.

**Spot maintenance:** Use a plastic scraper to remove stuck-on items from the floor. If there's anything stuck on your rubber gym floor, such as gum, gently try to pry it off of the floor with your scraper. If sticky material is really stubborn, lightly wet the substance with adhesive remover and let it sit for a few minutes. Then retry using a scraper.

**Stain maintenance:** Everyday glass cleaner can eliminate stubborn stains on rubber flooring. If there are stains on your rubber floor from water or sweat, mist the area with your glass cleaner until it's damp. Wipe up any excess cleaner with an absorbent towel and then let the rest air-dry. Use a dry towel to buff the surface until it's clean.



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#### Rubber Sheet & Tile Maintenance & Care Part 2

**Sanitization maintenance:** Sanitize your gym floor with a neutral disinfectant. Follow the instructions on the neutral disinfectant's label to mix the correct ratio for the solution. It is often recommended to combine the disinfectant with warm water following the dilution instructions on the package. Use a clean cloth or sponge mop to apply the disinfectant over your flooring. Leave the disinfectant for 5–10 minutes before wiping it off with a dry cloth or mop.

- o Apply enough cleaning solution so the floor is damp but not soaking wet. Excess water could soak into the rubber and cause damage more easily.
- o Empty the bucket and refill it with fresh cleaning solution once the water turns brown or grey.
- Avoid using any textured or abrasive mop scrubbers since they may scratch your rubber floors.
- o You can also use mild liquid dish detergent to clean your rubber gym floor. Just check the label to make sure the dish detergent doesn't have any moisturizers or additives.
- o Avoid using harsh cleaners, such as bleach, vinegar, and commercial since they can damage and eat away at the rubber over time.
- o If you notice the cleaner starting to dry, move on to the next step and rinse the cleaner off. If the cleaner fully dries on your floors, the residue can ruin your rubber floors over time.

Spot areas which may be particularly soiled can be treated with a soft bristle hand brush to gently scrub the disinfecting solution into the flooring.

**Periodic maintenance:** To avoid damage to the rubber floor, use an auto scrubber with soft bristles. The auto-scrubber should go over the entire rubber gym floor surface. It is recommended to move your automatic scrubber to the corner of the room furthest from the door as your starting point. Plug in or turn on your automatic scrubber and slowly move it back and forth across the gym floor to ensure the scrubber cleans the rubber effectively. Usually the auto-scrubber has a built-in vacuum, it won't leave behind any water or cleaner so it's safe to walk on the surfaces you already cleaned.

**Weekly maintenance for gym floors:** It is recommended to use your automatic scrubber at least once per week so you can clean and sanitize deep down in your rubber floors. In between deep-cleanings, be sure to sweep and mop your gym floor daily to keep it maintained. Commercial gyms that experience very high foot traffic should use your autoscrubber every day to prevent the floor from getting soiled.