

# MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR MARMOLEUM



**DATA SHEET NO. 119**

Sep 2020

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Forbo Marmoleum product range includes Marmoleum sheeting, Marmoleum Decibel sheeting, Marmoleum Composition Sheeting, Walton sheeting, Marmoleum Dual Tiles and Marmoleum Composition Tiles.

Forbo Marmoleum and linoleum products feature a Topshield2 coating, which makes them an occupancy-ready finish. This means that at the time of installation, cleaning with a neutral pH cleaning solution is all that is necessary. Topshield2 has been designed to create a Marmoleum that meets the demands of everyday use and is even more resistant to dirt pick-up, less prone to wear and has improved resistance to scratches and stains, and thus creating a floor that demonstrates a lasting performance over time. This surface treatment will only be effective in conjunction with a daily and periodic cleaning and maintenance regime in conjunction with a correctly dimensioned entrance mat or dirt-trapping system. Unlike PUR finishes that show wear and dirt concentration encapsulated in micro scratches over time, Marmoleum with Topshield2 can be refreshed and renewed, generating a new finish, turning Marmoleum into what is probably the best performing resilient floor in the real world.

**NOTE:** The maintenance procedures described in these recommendations will ensure satisfactory performance and an aesthetically pleasing appearance at the most economical possible cost. Since each installation is subject to different usage situations, an adaptation of these recommendations for local conditions may be necessary. Any maintenance products used should be selected and handled with consideration of the manufacturer's recommendations

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**CAUTION:** Forbo Marmoleum should NEVER be subjected to traditional, aggressive wet stripping as the Topshield2 coating will be damaged.

No wet maintenance must take place on newly installed floors until 72 hours (3 days) have elapsed from the time of installation. This is to ensure that the adhesive has sufficient time to cure properly and develop full bond strength

### GENERAL ADVICE

#### Protect newly installed floors

- All newly laid floors should be covered and protected from all other trades during the contract with a suitable non-staining protective covering.
- Use protective feet on chairs and tables to reduce scratching.
- Castor wheels should be of soft material suitable for resilient floor coverings (according to EN425)

### PREVENTIVE CARE

#### Entrance systems

- The easiest way to reduce maintenance costs is to reduce the amount of dirt, grit and moisture brought into a building with an effective dirt-trapping or barrier mat. Approximately 80% of the dirt and soiling that has to be cleaned off a floor has been trafficked in from outside the building. More than 90% of that soiling can be avoided by the use of an effective entrance matting system. When less dirt is trafficked through the entrance there will be a reduction in maintenance requirements.
- Regular cleaning is more cost-effective and hygienic than occasional heavy-duty cleaning, and light colours need more frequent cleaning.
- Wipe up any spills immediately and treat stains as soon as they are observed as resilient floors are damaged by solvents. (Do NOT use highly alkaline products [ammonia, soda] or strong solvents such as acetone as they can be harmful to both people and the floor)

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### Floorcare Chemicals

- Use only recommended cleaning products
- Always follow the manufacturer's dosage instructions.
- Frequent treatment or inadequate rinsing may cause cracking, shrinking, and/or discolouration.
- Marmoleum flooring should never be cleaned with high pH chemicals because permanent damage may occur.
- Abrasive powders or cleansers should not be used.
- High-quality cleaning products and equipment ensure efficient maintenance and represent only a small proportion of maintenance costs.
- Always follow the Health and Safety guidance provided.

### Cleaning machines and pads

#### Pad codes

- The colour codes indicating grades of pads may vary depending on the manufacturer/country.
  - For regular and periodic cleaning – RED
  - For light scrubbing, buffing and burnishing - WHITE

Note: BLUE or GREEN pads are not required for normal cleaning and maintenance. Brown or Black pads should **not be used** on Marmoleum products.

#### Machine speeds

For machine cleaning, 150 to 300 rpm is perfectly suitable. For spray buffing, 300 to 500 rpm is the recommended speed for removing gloss irregularities and restoring the floor's original, optimum appearance.

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### Frequently of cleaning

The optimum frequency for cleaning and maintenance is determined by the way the floor is used. When producing a cleaning and maintenance schedule it is good practice to consider the situation of the floor first:-

- Is it near an entrance to the building or on an upper floor?
- Will it collect dry or moist soil?
- What level of traffic will it be subjected to?
- Remember that light and uni-colours may need to be cleaned more frequently.

### INITIAL CLEAN

(For new installations exposed to normal construction soil and traffic)

- Dust mop or vacuum the floor to remove loose soil and dust.
- Mix FloorworX Maintain – which is a neutral floor cleaner - diluted 1:10 with clean water.
- Apply the solution to the floor. Do NOT flood the floor. The solution can be applied with either a mop and bucket or an automatic scrubber.
- Scrub the floor with a rotary machine fitted with a RED pad.
- Remove the residue immediately after scrubbing using a wet/dry vacuum.
- Rinse with clean water using a flat mop and allow the floor to thoroughly dry before allowing traffic.

### REGULAR CLEANING

(Cleaning performed a minimum of once a day, depending on the application, type of traffic and hours of operation).

- Treat spills, spots and stains immediately with a damp mop or spot clean by hand with a WHITE or RED pad and a diluted solution of FloorworX Maintain, working from the outside of the mark to its centre.

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- Dust mop with flat mop or vacuum daily to remove dust and loose dirt.
- Mix FloorworX Maintain – which is a neutral floor cleaner - diluted 1:10 with clean water.
- Apply the solution to the floor. Do NOT flood the floor. The solution can be applied with either a mop and bucket or an automatic scrubber.
- Scrub the floor with a rotary machine fitted with a RED pad.
- Remove the residue immediately after scrubbing using a wet/dry vacuum.
- Rinse with clean water using a flat mop and allow the floor to thoroughly dry before allowing traffic.

### **PERIODIC (INTERIM) CLEANING**

(As needed, depending on the application, type of traffic and hours of operation).

- Dust mop or vacuum the floor to remove loose soil and dust.
- Mix FloorworX Maintain – which is a neutral floor cleaner - diluted 1:10 with clean water.
- Apply the solution to the floor. Do NOT flood the floor. The solution can be applied with either a mop and bucket or an automatic scrubber.
- Scrub the floor with a rotary machine fitted with a RED pad for Light and Medium Soiling or a BLUE pad for Heavy Soiling.
- Remove the residue immediately after scrubbing using a wet/dry vacuum.
- Rinse with clean water using a flat mop and allow the floor to thoroughly dry before allowing traffic.

If desired, the following procedure can be performed:-

- Spray buff the floor using FloorworX Spray Buff and a rotary machine fitted with a RED pad or equivalent, followed by dust mopping.
- The frequency of dry buffing or spray buffing is dependent on the amount of foot traffic and the effectiveness of the daily cleaning regime.

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- For higher traffic areas, apply FloorworX Spray Buff in a fine stream or mist onto the floor in front of a rotary machine fitted with a RED pad and work in until dry. Burnishing the product can be achieved by using a high speed (+ 500 rpm) rotary machine fitted with a WHITE pad. FloorworX Spray Buff applied in this manner at the rate of 600m<sup>2</sup> per litre assists in maintaining a smooth surface and constant level of gloss.

### FLOOR CARE PRODUCTS

- FloorworX Maintain is an effective and economical water-based general purpose cleaner and disinfectant containing a pleasant fragrance. FloorworX Maintain contains a broad-spectrum bactericide and can be diluted up to 1:100 with water depending on the degree of soiling to be removed. FloorworX Maintain is versatile and can be used on all surfaces not affected by water.
- FloorworX Rinse is a mildly acidic alkali neutraliser containing a coloured dilution indicator and is used to effectively neutralise alkali stripper and detergent residues on a floor during cleaning.
- FloorworX Spray Buff is a specially formulated FloorworX Spray Buff is a specially formulated acrylic emulsion for restoring and repairing floors previously coated with FloorworX Sealer in order to maintain a smooth surface and a constant level of gloss while extending the time between stripping and re-sealing operations. FloorworX Spray Buff is used in conjunction with rotary, high speed or burnishing machines.

#### DISCLAIMER

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON OUR EXPERTISE AND IS GIVEN IN GOOD FAITH BUT WITHOUT WARRANTY. WE CANNOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE, LOSS, OR ACCIDENT CAUSED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY THIS PRODUCT.

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