

## Floor Care Guidelines for Flotex® Sheet and Tile

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The unique construction of Forbo Flotex® sheet and tile flooring is what allows it to release soiling like no other textile flooring can. Unlike the looped and twisted fibers of a conventional carpet pile, the smooth straight fibers of Flotex® do not trap particles of soil, allowing them to be removed without difficulty during cleaning. Most spills can be cleaned with plain water. This document will provide you with guidelines that, if followed, will keep your flooring looking beautiful and clean for many years to come.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

By defining the traffic areas in a facility, a better determination can be made regarding an appropriate floor care plan. Single foot traffic is defined as “a pedestrian walking across a measured section of flooring, one time.”

Traffic areas can be defined as:

**High Traffic Areas** [800,000-2,000,000 traffics] - Outside entrances, hallways, break rooms, cafeterias, corridors, elevator lobbies, stairways, main aisles, waiting areas, etc. and ANY AREA CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE COMPANY.

**Medium Traffic Areas** [400,000-800,000 traffics] - Secondary aisles, research areas, conference rooms, classrooms, atriums, etc.

**Light Traffic Areas** [400,000 traffics] - Offices, cubicles, storage rooms, executive areas, etc.

- Flotex® requires regular care to keep it clean and prevent the accumulation of dirt and soil. Proper cleaning, such as daily vacuuming and routine hot water extraction, can reduce contamination to virtually non-existent levels.
- Use a high quality entrance system, such as Coral®, at all entrances.
- Identify sources of soiling and react to spills immediately, before they dry.
- Be certain not to leave any detergent residue when cleaning. Any chemicals applied to the flooring must be removed. No more than 1 oz. per gallon should be used. The most common problem when caring for Flotex® is the over use of cleaning chemicals. The build up of chemicals and cleaners will de-luster the Flotex® fibers and leave a dull appearance. Chemical buildup also attracts dirt faster and speeds soiling.

### **NOTE:**

In order to allow the adhesive to dry and cure properly, wait a minimum of five days following the installation before conducting initial cleaning or other wet cleaning procedures. For installations over non-porous substrates, additional time may be necessary because the adhesive may take longer to dry and cure.

### **INITIAL CLEANING**

For new installations exposed to normal construction soil and traffic.

1. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by vacuuming using a dual motor upright vacuum with a rotating brush, such as Tennant V-HDU-14, Clarke CarpetMaster 215 or equivalent. The brush should be approximately 1/8” below the vacuum cleaner casing to ensure proper agitation. Make several passes with the vacuum cleaner to ensure that all loose dirt is removed. Vacuum action should be fast forward and slow backward.
2. Spot clean if necessary by using the “Scrape, Scrub and Rinse” procedures.

### **SPOTTING PROCEDURES: “SCRAPE, SCRUB, AND RINSE”**

1. Scrape up spills using a spatula or blunt edged scraper and wipe excess soil onto a cloth.
2. Apply a liberal amount of water to the spot.
3. Using a spatula, scrape the water and the remains of the spill into a paper towel or cloth. Keep scraping with the spatula until the spill is completely removed.
4. If the spill or stain is not completely removed, apply a general purpose spotter cleaner to a white cotton cloth and rub it into the spot. Do not be afraid to use aggressive scrubbing to remove set-in spills. A soft wire brush can be used to remove scuff marks or other set in spills.

**IMPORTANT: Please refer to the list at the end of this section for recommended general purpose spotters.**

5. Using a spatula, scrape the water, any cleaner and the remains of the spill into a paper towel or cloth. Keep scraping with the spatula until the spill or stain is completely removed.
6. Rinse the area thoroughly with water to ensure that any cleaning solution is completely removed.
7. A spotter machine, such as Tennant EX-SPOT-2 Spotter, Clarke BextSpot or equivalent, may be used to perform rinsing throughout the spot cleaning process.
8. Do not allow traffic on areas that were spot cleaned until the Flotex® has completely dried.

### **INTERIM CLEANING**

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

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1. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by vacuuming using a dual motor upright vacuum with a rotating brush, such as Tennant V-HDU-14, Clarke CarpetMaster 215 or equivalent. The brush should be approximately 1/8" below the vacuum cleaner casing to ensure proper agitation. Make several passes with the vacuum cleaner to ensure that all loose dirt is removed. Vacuum action should be fast forward and slow backward.
2. Spot clean if necessary by using the "Scrape, Scrub and Rinse" procedures.
3. Use a self-contained portable extraction machine, such as Tennant 1610 Extractor, Clarke Clean Track S16 or equivalent, preferably with counter-rotating brushes. The machine should be filled with the hottest water available at the facility, not to exceed 140°.
4. Extract thoroughly, using water only. Set the machine to its lowest setting to ensure maximum agitation and contact with the fibers.
5. Follow each wet pass with a minimum of two dry passes.
6. Use snail fans or air movers for the final drying of the floor surface. When possible, allow a minimum of three hours drying time after the last extraction before traffic is allowed on the floor surface again.

### **RESTORATION CLEANING**

As needed when periodic cleaning procedures no longer produce the desired result.

1. Remove all surface soil, debris, sand and grit by vacuuming using a dual motor upright vacuum with a rotating brush, such as Tennant V-HDU-14, Clarke CarpetMaster 215 or equivalent. The brush should be approximately 1/8" below the vacuum cleaner casing to ensure proper agitation. Make several passes with the vacuum cleaner to ensure that all loose dirt is removed. Vacuum action should be fast forward and slow backward.
2. Spot clean if necessary by using the "Scrape, Scrub and Rinse" procedures.
3. Mix a hydrogen peroxide cleaning solution according to the label directions.  
**IMPORTANT: The pH of the hydrogen peroxide cleaner in solution must be between 4 – 7 pH. Please refer to the list at the end of this section for recommended products.**
4. Apply the solution to the floor either with a rotary scrubbing machine with tank or pump up sprayer.
5. Scrub the entire area using a standard speed rotary scrubbing machine and a flagged-bristle brush.
6. Use a self-contained portable extraction machine, such as Tennant 1610 Extractor, Clarke Clean Track S16 or equivalent, preferably with counter-rotating brushes. The machine should be filled with the hottest water available at the facility, not to exceed 140°.
7. Extract thoroughly, using water only. Set the machine to its lowest setting to ensure maximum agitation and contact with the fibers.
8. Follow each wet pass with a minimum of two dry passes.
9. Use snail fans or air movers for the final drying of the floor surface. When possible, allow a minimum of three hours drying time after the last extraction before traffic is allowed on the floor surface again.

### **RECOMMENDED FLOOR CARE PRODUCTS**

#### **Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaners:**

Forbo Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner  
 ProLink TransOxy  
 Spartan Clean by Peroxy  
 3M™ Peroxide Cleaner 34L  
 Diversey Alpha HP

#### **General Purpose Spotters:**

Forbo Adhesive Remover  
 ProLink General Purpose Spotter  
 Contempo® H2O2 Spotting Solution  
 Diversey General Purpose Spot Cleaner

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**For additional information on a product or for your local supplier, contact:**

Forbo Flooring Systems  
+800 842 7839  
[www.forboflooringNA.com](http://www.forboflooringNA.com)

Spartan  
+800 537 8990  
[www.spartanchemical.com](http://www.spartanchemical.com)

Diversey  
+800 558 2332  
[www.diversey.com](http://www.diversey.com)

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Forbo's Floor Care Guide contains additional information about floor care and is available for download at [www.forboflooringna.com](http://www.forboflooringna.com).  
For a hard copy, or for additional information, contact Forbo Technical Services at +800 842 7839.