

## RUBBER SHEET FLOOR: Maintenance Guide

Allstate Sheet Rubber Flooring is formulated with premium quality rubber (both synthetic & sustainable natural rubber) and manufactured in the most advanced process. It has been developed to render long term service, while offering a permanently resilient floor.

For the floor to perform at its best, it is important that proper maintenance procedures are followed:

- Initial cleaning
- Regular maintenance
- Application of a floor finish (an optional procedure)
- The use of walk off mats is strongly recommended, especially at entrance ways. This will help prevent dirt, grit and asphalt from being brought into the facility. In Northern climates and at street level installations, the mats should be cleaned on a frequent basis.

### TOOLS:

- Single Disc (150~300 rpm) rotary buffer
- Wet vacuum or appropriate device
- Appropriate pads for buffer machine
- Appropriate rubber floor cleaner

### CAUTION:

- Allow 72 hours for the adhesive to cure prior to the cleaning of the floor. Any adhesive on the floor should be removed immediately before the adhesive starts to cure.
- Remove adhesive spills while the adhesive is still wet by using a wet cloth. If the adhesive has cured, it will be hard to remove, however, the following procedure may help the removal of cured adhesive:
  - Apply mineral spirit with a cloth, to try to soften the adhesive.
  - Allow the wet cloth to stay on the effected area for at least five minutes.
  - Using either a wooden or plastic spatula, chip off the adhesive.

Steel wool or abrasive pads are not recommended, they will permanently damage the surface

[allstaterubber.com](http://allstaterubber.com)

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## RUBBER SHEET FLOOR: Maintenance Guide (cont.)

### **CAUTION:**

A general dullness may result from the process of removing adhesive from the surface. If the natural luster does not return, the floor may have to be cleaned and an application of floor finish may be necessary.

The use of strong solvent cleaners, gasoline, turpentine or acetone is prohibited. The use of these products will cause permanent damage.

- Do not use scrubbing pads or disks.
- Do not use high speed buffing machines or scrubbers above 300 rpm.
- Do not use high acrylic finish material.
- Do not install in commercial kitchens, areas with excessive grease or outdoors.
- Do not use wax products.

### **INITIAL CLEANING AFTER INSTALLATION**

- Allow 72 hours for the adhesive to cure prior to the cleaning of the floor.
- Sweep and vacuum all surface dirt.
- Use appropriate rubber floor cleaner diluted 7 oz. per gallon of warm water for initial cleaning only.
- Use a low RPM auto scrubber (less than 300 rpms).
- Depending on the brand of pads use either a green pad (3m 5000 series. For light scrubbing of floors with auto scrubber prior to burnishing. Excellent daily cleaning pad, minimal finish removal. Open construction resists clogging and allows for easy cleaning) or a 3m #5100 red pad (Specially designed for spray buffing. Cleans when damp; buffs when dry. Quickly cleans and removes scuff marks and enhances floor appearance. Works great on automatic floor scrubbers for light-duty cleaning)

### **GENERAL CLEANING AS REGULAR MAINTENANCE**

- Sweep and vacuum all surface dirt.
- Use appropriate rubber floor cleaner diluted 3 oz. per gallon of warm water.

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### CLEANING PROCEDURE

To avoid excessive suds, pour cleaner into water rather than adding the water to the cleaner. Apply solution to the floor with a clean rayon mop. Do not use cotton mops.

1. Scrub the area for four to five minutes using a single or double brush, low RPM floor scrubbing machine (under 300 rpm).
2. Wet vacuum or mop up the solution.
3. Rinse with clean cold water & vacuum up all water. When an automatic floor cleaning machine with a vacuum is used, it usually will remove the cleaner residue in one rinsing. If removed by the mop method, a second rinsing may be necessary, especially if a floor finish is going to be applied.
4. Please follow the following procedure when you are cleaning the floor with an automatic dispensing cleaning and vacuum machine:
  - Mix solutions as described above.
  - Make sure the brushes are correct.
  - Apply solution on the floor w/ brushes in rotate method. Leave the solution on the floor.
  - After the cleaning solution has been applied, go over the area with the brushes and wet vac the cleaning solution from the floor. Once the cleaning solution has been removed, the brushes and machine should be cleaned, remove the soapy water and fill with clean water. The floor should then be rinsed. When rinsing, clear & clean water should be applied to the floor with the brushes and vacuum working in one action.

For some areas, i.e. small installations or in situations where an automatic floor cleaning machine cannot be used, a nylon boat deck brush can be used to scrub the floor.

Mopping without a brushing action can result in the buildup of material and soap residue, giving the surface a dull appearance. It is important that the rubber flooring be buffed when perfectly clean.

## RUBBER SHEET FLOOR: Maintenance Guide (cont.)

If the use of a floor finish is desired to obtain a high gloss and to facilitate daily maintenance, it is very important that all cleaning solutions be removed and it may be necessary to rinse twice before applying the floor finish. The floor finish should last for approx. six months to one year. It is recommended that when the floor finish product starts to wear, the finish should be stripped from the floor. Use the appropriate rubber floor cleaner, and clean as instructed above. After the floor is rinsed and it has dried, be sure that all old finish has been removed prior to applying a new coat of finish.

- Re-clean the areas where any old finish remains before applying the new finish. Apply the floor finish material as instructed on the label. Allow the finish to completely set prior to putting the area back in service. One of the main differences between rubber and other resilient floors is that as rubber ages it actually gets easier to maintain. This is due to the maturing process. During the earlier stages of the break in period it may attract more dirt than normal. However after a period of not more than 1 year the surface will then be easier to clean than other materials.
- Every 3 years or so (depending on local conditions) a deep clean may be in order. This will help to restore the surface to the factory state. Some recommended floor finishes are:
  - Matte Finish: Johnson/Diversy Carefree or Taski Vision Matte™, Taski WiWax™
  - High Gloss: Johnson Diversy Carefree™ or Vectra™ or Showplace™, Taski Vision Star™
- Specifications & terms are subject to change without notice. The suggestions are made with the best intentions. It is always best to test maintenance procedures in your installation.

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