

D. MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS BY PRODUCT

LinoArt Linoleum Sheet and Tile with NATURcote II

MARMORETTE | RHYTHMICS | GRANETTE | COLORETTE | LINORETTE

Armstrong linoleum sheet and tile products are manufactured with NATURCote, a protective, high performance urethane finish that provides improved maintenance characteristics and maintenance options for the end-user.

For Best Results:

- Do not wet wash, machine scrub or strip the floor for at least five days after installation. This is to prevent excess moisture from interfering with the adhesive bond and/or seam treatments.
- Use a proper walk-off mat program to control and reduce the amount of loose grit and soil coming into the building.
- Proper selection and care of furniture rests (feet, glides and casters) is important in the maintenance and appearance retention of all types of floor coverings. Protect the flooring from damage by using high-quality, non-staining protective rests for chairs, tables and other furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- When performing wet maintenance, always use proper signage and prohibit traffic until the floor is completely dry.
- Maintenance solutions used on linoleum should not exceed a pH of 10 because linoleum is made primarily of natural raw materials (linseed oil, cork, jute and natural resins). The use of highly alkaline or solvenated solutions or abrasive materials may damage linoleum.
- Do not use excessive amounts of liquid during maintenance.
- Do not use brown or black pads, equivalent brushes or stiff-bristled, highly abrasive brushes on Armstrong resilient flooring.
- On heat welded seams apply a thin, even application of a commercially available, high-quality multi-purpose top coating such as Mohawk Ultra Bond Waterborne Clear Finish Marker (Satin or Matte Finish). When using the No Polish Option, it may be necessary to periodically recoat the welded seam.
- If it becomes necessary to move any heavy fixtures or appliances over the flooring on casters or dollies, the flooring should be protected with 1/4" or thicker plywood, hardboard or other underlayment panels. If other on-site work is continuing, consider using a protective covering such as plain, undyed kraft paper to guard against damage to the new floor.

A. Initial Maintenance and Preparation for Commercial Traffic

1. Sweep, dust mop, or vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove all loose dust, dirt, grit, and debris.

2. Remove any dried adhesive residue with a clean, white cloth dampened with mineral spirits, carefully following warnings on the container.

MAINTENANCE OPTIONS

Recognizing that end users prefer maintenance options, these products may be maintained using any of the procedures described below. Having completed Steps 1- 2 above, choose a maintenance option based on your evaluation of the factors listed under “How to Determine Your Maintenance Program” and proceed as directed below.

1. Polish Option

- After completing Steps 1 and 2 under Initial Maintenance above, scrub the floor using a rotary machine or auto scrubber with a properly diluted neutral detergent solution (pH 6 to 8), such as Armstrong S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner and a scrubbing pad (aggressiveness equivalent to 3M blue pad or equal). This will promote polish adhesion.
- Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water. Remove rinse water and allow the floor to dry completely.
- Apply 3 to 5 coats of high-quality commercial floor polish such as Armstrong S-480 Commercial Floor Polish. In areas where the flooring will be exposed to heavy traffic and/or staining agents, the application of a stain resistant sealer such as Armstrong S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer, prior to the application of polish, is recommended.

2. No Polish – Spray Buff Option

- After completing Steps 1 and 2 under Initial Maintenance above, scrub the floor using a rotary machine or auto scrubber with a properly diluted neutral detergent solution (pH 6 to 8), such as Armstrong S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner and a scrubbing pad (aggressiveness equivalent to 3M blue pad or equal).
- Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water. Remove rinse water and allow the floor to dry completely.
- Spray buff using a rotary machine (175 to 1000 rpm) with the appropriate pad and spray buff solution. This may be followed by dry buffing with a white pad

3. No Polish – No Buff Option

- After completing Steps 1 and 2 under Initial Maintenance above, scrub the floor using a rotary machine or auto scrubber with a properly diluted neutral detergent solution (pH 6 to 8), such as Armstrong S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner and a scrubbing pad (aggressiveness equivalent to 3M red pad or equal)
- Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water. Remove rinse water and allow floor to dry completely.

Your Armstrong linoleum flooring is now ready for commercial traffic.

B. Daily/Regular Maintenance

1. Sweep, dust mop, or vacuum the floor daily to remove dust, dirt, grit, and debris that can damage the floor and become ground into the surface.

2. Spot mop as needed. Any spills should be cleaned up immediately.
3. Damp mopping of the floor should be performed on a regular or daily basis, depending upon traffic and soil levels in the area. Use a properly diluted neutral detergent solution (pH 6 to 8) such as S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner.

C. Periodic Maintenance

1. When needed, machine scrub the floor with a properly diluted neutral detergent solution (pH 6 to 8) such as S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner and the appropriate scrubbing pad (3M red or equal for light scrub, 3M blue or equal for a deep scrub) or equivalent brush.
2. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water. Remove rinse water and allow the floor to dry completely.
3. Based on the selected maintenance option in Section A above, do one of the following:
 - If maintaining with the **Polish Option** and a sufficient base (3 to 5 coats) of polish remains, buff, spray-buff or burnish to restore gloss. If needed, additional coats of floor polish may be applied at this time
 - If maintaining with the **Spray Buff Option**, spray buff using a rotary machine (175 to 1000 rpm) with the appropriate pad and spray buff solution. This may be followed by dry buffing with a white pad.
 - If maintaining with the **No Buff Option**, periodic maintenance is complete.

NOTE: For the above Polish and Spray Buff options, at some point it may become necessary to remove polish build-up by stripping the floor. The use of high-quality maintenance products such as Armstrong commercial floor care products and adherence to a well-planned maintenance program will greatly reduce the need for stripping. Should stripping become necessary, follow the procedures outlined below.

D. Restorative Maintenance – Stripping

NOTE: Use only stripping chemicals designed for use on linoleum (10 pH or less).

1. Mix stripping solution to the appropriate dilution, depending on floor finish build-up. Blockade areas to be stripped. Apply liberal amounts of solution uniformly on floor with mop. Let stripping solution soak for the appropriate amount of time recommended by the stripper manufacturer. Keep areas to be stripped wet. Rewet if necessary.
2. Machine scrub the floor (300 rpm or less) with a scrubbing pad (3M blue or equal) or equivalent scrub brush to break up the polish film. **Do not allow stripping solution to dry on the floor.**
3. Remove dirty stripping solution with a wet vacuum or mop. **TIP: Drizzling fresh, clean rinse water onto the dirty stripping solution will assist with more thorough removal.**
4. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water. Remove rinse water and allow the floor to dry completely.

5. Based on the selected maintenance option in Section A above, do one of the following:
- If maintaining with the **Polish Option** apply 3 to 5 coats of high-quality commercial floor polish such as Armstrong S-480 Commercial Floor Polish.
 - If maintaining with the **Spray Buff Option**, spray buff using a rotary machine (175 to 1000 rpm) with the appropriate pad and spray buff solution. This may be followed by dry buffing with a white pad.

Linoleum Color Change

“Drying room yellowing” sometimes referred to as “seasoning bloom,” “drying room film” or “stove yellowing” is a natural phenomenon that occurs during the manufacturing process of all linoleum. As linoleum cures in the drying room, a yellowish cast may develop on the surface due to the oxidation of the linseed oil. This is not a product defect. Any change in the product’s appearance because of this yellow cast is temporary and disappears after exposure to either natural or artificial light. The time required for the yellow cast to disappear ranges from a few hours to several weeks, depending on the type and intensity of the light source. Typically, the yellow cast disappears more quickly with exposure to natural light. The application of floor finishes will not interfere with the dissipation of the yellow cast. Disappearance of the yellow cast will not occur on areas not exposed to light.