

# CLEANING GUIDELINES

By routinely cleaning your floor properly, you will maximize its performance, appearance, and slip resistance. If you have a floor cleaning service, make sure they are instructed according to this guide.

**Appearance:** Naturally, your floor will look its best when its clean. By installing a seamless resinous flooring system in your facility, you are conveying a caring and professional image. By creating and sustaining a regimented cleaning program, your flooring system will continue to look and perform as it did when it was first installed.

**Safety:** *No matter how aggressive the texture of your finished floor, if it is not cleaned properly and regularly, it can present a slip hazard. Emulsifying, rinsing, and drying your floor properly will reduce the risk of a slip and fall incident.*

**Service Life:** The lifetime of your floor will be directly proportional to how well you clean it- particularly in high-use areas with harsh exposures, like kitchens, f&b processing, service bays, machine lines, etc. Contaminants such as oils, dirt, and grease work with water and bacteria to attack your floor. This will eventually lead to extended damage of the floor.

## WHAT TO CLEAN YOUR FLOOR WITH (TOOLS)

**Mechanical Scrubbers (floor machines):** Self-contained mechanical or auto scrubbers are the most efficient and cost-effective method. Pay particular attention to the type of cleaning pads & brushes being used. The abrasive pad should not mark the surface of the floor. The 3M Red or Blue cleaning pad is recommended. Brushes should be nylon non-abrasive Malish 8129 series or similar medium flex bristle brush.

**Spray Cleaning/Power Washers:** In most cases, power washing is combined with a chemical cleaning. Hot water under pressure is insufficient to emulsify oils and grease. Power wash, scrub with a cleaning agent, and then rinse!

**Deck Broom:** A medium-stiff bristle deck broom is an effective cleaning tool for most small applications. Soak the floor with the cleaner/degreaser and water and allow it to sit on the surface for 10-15 minutes. This “dwel time” for the cleaner is very important in breaking down the soiling material. Scrub the floor with the deck broom. After scrubbing, rinse or vacuum the cleaning solution from the floor surface.

**Mops:** Mops are generally ineffective except for smoother finish floors, with multiple topcoats, and in more cleaning situations. If mopping the floor, it is important to change the cleaning solution and rinse your mop often.

**Wet/Dry Vacuum:** In areas that do not have drains, and if a mechanical scrubber is not available, it is important to remove all of the cleaning solution from the floor. **Do not allow the cleaning solution to air-dry on the floor.**

**Squeegee:** Use a flat squeegee to move the cleaning solution to available drains. A soft neoprene rubber squeegee works well, and leaves the floor fairly dry.

**Follow these general cleaning steps:**

**WET - SCRUB - SOAK - SCRUB - RINSE**

## WHAT TO CLEAN YOUR FLOOR WITH (CLEANERS)

**ProClean B15™:** A&E ProCOAT ProClean B15 is a concentrated, non-hazardous, bio-based floor cleaner used for general everyday cleaning & degreasing. It's a safe alternative to standard industry cleaners that are typically based on petroleum solvents, butyl glycol ethers and acidic/alkaline chemistries. ProClean B15 was designed to replace hazardous chemicals in cleaning floors that have been treated with epoxy, polyurethane, polyaspartic, or acrylic coating systems. ProClean B15 is an excellent degreaser and can be used to remove greasy residues from both equipment surfaces and floors.

A **thorough rinsing** is necessary. If not completely rinsed, the residue could affect not only the appearance, but also the non-slip resistance of the polymer floor's finish.

Other good alkaline and non-butyl cleaners are commercially available as well. If in doubt, contact A&E ProCOAT North America directly at 877.511.3456 for any questions or concerns you may have regarding cleaners or the cleaning process of your new or existing polymer flooring system.

## WHEN TO CLEAN YOUR FLOOR

How often you need to clean your floor depends on the type of soiling and contaminants the floor is exposed to. Frequent cleaning is recommended for optimum performance. The more harsh the environment, the more frequently you should clean your floors. “Ground in” dust & dirt will dull the finish if not removed on a regular basis. Chemical spills such as battery acids, phosphoric acids, dyes, iodine, etc., in many cases, will stain without otherwise damaging the floor.

**Clean & rinse harsh chemical spills immediately.**

Harsher environments like kitchens, f&b processing, service bays, machine lines, etc. need to be cleaned thoroughly at least once a day. A regular cleaning consisting of soaking, scrubbing and rinsing - mechanically or manually - should be part of the daily **Standard Operating Procedures** for these types of areas subject to heavy protein and crude soils.

**Immediate attention is required for abnormal spills.**

## HOW TO CLEAN YOUR FLOOR

Daily cleaning procedure for a typical polymer floor coating or resurfacing system:

1. Sweep entire surface area to be cleaned.
2. Mix 4 oz. of **ProClean B15** per 1 gallon of clean hot water. Add cleaner to container first. Then add water & agitate. Liberally apply cleaning solution onto the floor. Allow to soak or dwell for approximately **10-15 minutes** to emulsify the floor soiling material. **Dwell time for the cleaning solution is critical!**
3. Scrub or agitate the entire area to help release the soiling material using a deck brush or standard floor machine with the appropriate nylon brush attachment or a blue or red scrubbing pad as manufactured by 3M Company. **Do not let solution dry out.**
4. If cleaning manually, DO NOT rinse the floor before removing the solution with a soft neoprene squeegee. If there are no floor drains, then the solution will need to be removed with a "wet" vacuum.
5. After removing the cleaning solution, you should rinse the floor thoroughly with clean water and remove either manually or mechanically.

The following **cleaning procedure** is strongly recommended for more severe flooring environments like kitchens, f&b processing, service bays, machine lines, etc. These kinds of areas typically have a large volume of traffic on them and are often wet, greasy, oily, and/or grimy.

1. Sweep entire surface area to be cleaned.
2. Use **ProClean B15**. For first-time cleaning, start with a dilution ratio of 1:8 or approx. 16 oz. of the cleaner per 1 gallon of clean hot water. For routine maintenance, you should be using a dilution ratio of 1:16 or approx. 8 oz. of the cleaner per 1 gallon of clean hot water. Liberally apply cleaning solution onto the floor. Allow to soak or dwell for approximately **10-15 minutes** to emulsify the floor soiling material. **Dwell time for the cleaning solution is critical!**
3. Scrub or agitate the entire area to help release the soiling material using a deck brush or standard floor machine with the appropriate nylon brush attachment or a blue or red scrubbing pad as manufactured by 3M Company. **Do not let solution dry out.**
4. If cleaning manually, DO NOT rinse the floor before removing the solution with a soft neoprene squeegee. If there are no floor drains, then the solution will need to be removed with a "wet" vacuum.
5. After removing the cleaning solution, you should rinse the floor thoroughly with clean water and remove either manually or mechanically.

**If the floor has a slippery feel to it once it has dried, the floor has not been cleaned properly!**

## WALL CLEANING PROCESS

1. Mix 2-4 oz. of **ProClean B15** per 1 gallon of clean hot water. Apply using a deck brush, sprayer, or power washer.
2. Scrub walls with deck brush.
3. Rinse walls with clean water.

## OTHER FLOOR CLEANING/MAINTENANCE CONCERNS

**Scratches/Damage:** Cuts, gouges and rubber burns such as those caused by forklifts or sliding heavy equipment, pallets, materials, etc. across the floor can damage any polymer system. Using a good floor protection material like "Cover Guard" ([www.coverguard.com](http://www.coverguard.com)) or "Ram Board" ([www.ramboard.com](http://www.ramboard.com)) can greatly reduce the incidence for floor damage when moving or sliding heavy objects.

If damage occurs, it should be addressed by contacting call **A&E ProCOAT** directly at **877.511.3456** to make any necessary repairs to the floor.

**Pitting:** As normal wear occurs in kitchen or f&b processing environments, some aggregate in the system may be removed or fractured from the surface of the polymer matrix. These areas become a potential hiding place for bacteria. The bacteria will grow and generate strong organic acid by-products. If not cleaned properly, the floor will begin to form pits.

**Black Streaks/Tire Marks:** A&E ProCOAT offers a "black streak & tire mark" remover by North American Bioindustries. It was engineered specifically for industrial use in hard-to-clean situations, and is specifically formulated to be safe on all concrete or polymer coated floor surfaces such as epoxy, urethane, polyaspartic, or acrylic. It is packaged ready to use and designed as a spot treatment to effectively remove tire marks, black streaks, and other extreme soiling of the floor surface area.

**Before using any cleaning product, please be sure the Safety Data Sheet is read and understood.**

If you require further technical assistance or if you have comments or questions regarding these guidelines, please call **A&E ProCOAT** directly at **877.511.3456**.