



Standard Practice for Application of Floor Polishes to Maintain Vinyl Composition Tile or Flooring¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the application of floor polishes to maintain vinyl composition tile or flooring. Floor polishes are applied to vinyl composition tile floors for protection and beautification of the floor surface. Cleaning, polish application, removal, and maintenance procedures are important functions in this process.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Significance and Use

2.1 Vinyl composition tile or flooring consists of vinyl resins (suitably plasticized and stabilized) fortified with composition fibers, mineral fillers, and prime pigments. In some cases, all or part of the wearing surfaces may consist of unfilled vinyl resin that is clear or translucent. Metallic accents (chips, pigment, etc.) are frequently used to form the overall design. In general, the overall binder content is lower than that of homogeneous vinyl tile. For the purpose of this practice, vinyl composition also includes vinyl asbestos tile.

3. Initial Treatment, New Floors

3.1 Do not scrub vinyl composition tile floors for about 4 to 5 days after the floor has been installed. This waiting period allows sufficient time for the adhesive to set properly. However, it is good practice to clean the floor lightly and apply a polish as soon as it has been installed. Lightly mop with a dilute floor cleaning solution (following the manufacturer's dilution recommendations for damp mopping) to remove surface soil, and then apply one or two coats of a good grade of emulsion polish. Care should be taken during these operations not to flood the floor resulting in excess polish being "worked into" the seams or joints in the flooring.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-21 on Polishes and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D21.05 on Specifications.

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3.2 Sweep the floor frequently to keep it free of foreign matter, dust, and dirt.

3.2.1 For this purpose, treated mops or dust cloths may be used provided they are treated in such a manner that no deposits of treatment compound are left on the floor.

4. Thorough Cleaning

4.1 After the 4 to 5 day waiting period on new floors or as needed on previously installed floors, scrub thoroughly to remove all dirt, surface soil, temporary floor polish coats, etc.

4.2 Use a suitable floor cleaner diluted with warm water 100 to 120°F (37.8 to 48.9°C) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

4.2.1 Do not use cleaners containing abrasives or aromatic or aliphatic petroleum distillates. Alkaline cleaners with a pH higher than eleven at the use concentrations are not recommended.

4.3 Apply the cleaner solution without flooding the floor.

4.4 Allow the cleaner solution to remain on the floor undisturbed for a few minutes but not long enough for it to dry.

4.5 Scrub until all dirt and soil is loosened from the floor. Power machines fitted with a scrub brush or a very mild scrubbing type of synthetic pad may be used to hasten cleaning action. Avoid coarse grades of synthetic pads or steel wool to prevent tile damage.

4.6 After scrubbing, take up the cleaner solution using a mop or wet vacuum.

4.7 Rinse the floor thoroughly with clean, cool water but do not flood the floor during this operation. The purpose is to remove all traces of cleaner and soil so that the performance of any subsequent coating is not adversely affected. Take up the rinse water.

4.8 Allow the floor to dry before applying floor polish.

5. Polish Application

5.1 Only floor polishes that are recommended for use on vinyl composite tile and flooring should be used. These floor polishes should be removable with strippers recommended for use on the same flooring.

5.2 Apply the polish evenly in a thin, uniform coat with an applicator or mop. If new mops or applicators are used, they should be cleaned by soaking in warm water until the size is removed, rinsed, and squeezed damp dry prior to use.