



Standard Practice for Application of Floor Polishes to Maintain Multilayer Composite Tile or Flooring¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4386; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the application of floor polishes to maintain multilayer composite tile or flooring.² Floor polishes are applied to multilayer composite 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 Multilayer composite tile or flooring consists of a decorative pattern layer and a transparent wear layer. Some floors may also include a stress absorbing foam layer or a backing layer of other type.

2.2 Included in the composition are vinyl resins, suitably plasticized and stabilized, with or without fortifying fibers, mineral fillers and prime pigments. Metallic accents (chips, pigments, etc.) are frequently used to form the overall design. The transparent wear coating is usually polyurethane, acrylic or vinyl. Although the transparent wear layer provides an extra measure of protection, the surface is subject to the same wear and tear as other types of floors.

3. Initial Treatment, New Floors

3.1 Do not scrub multilayer composite 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 as soon as it has been installed. Lightly mop with a dilute floor cleaning solution to remove surface oil (following the cleaner manufacturer's dilution recommendations for damp mopping). Care

should be taken during these operations not to flood the floor.

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 For proper preparation of multilayer composite tile or flooring use a suitable cleaner following dilution instructions as recommended by the manufacturer.

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 mild scrubbing type of synthetic pad may be used to hasten cleaning action. Avoid coarse grades of synthetic pads 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 multilayer composite tile or flooring should be used. The floor polishes should be removable with cleaners 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.

5.2.1 *Procedure for Application by Mop*—This procedure is essential with surface embossed patterns to prevent polish

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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² Commonly referred to as “no wax flooring” or “minimum maintenance flooring.”