



**FLEETWOOD**

**TECHNICAL SERVICES**

## **VINYL FLOOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

### **Basic Floor Protection**

**Sunlight.** Similar to home furnishings like paint, fabric, and draperies, strong sunlight may have a bleaching or surface discoloration effect. Full-length draperies are recommended to curtail sunlight during peak hours.

**Carpets and Rubber Mats.** Some carpet dyes and some rubber backing used for rugs or mats can cause discoloration. Use non-staining fiber mats at entryways to avoid tracking in dirt. Ask your carpeting retailer about the color fastness of your carpeting.

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### **Stain Removal**

**No floor is completely stain proof.** Most household products will not stain the floor. However, certain spills and smears can be especially harmful; therefore, all spills should be wiped up quickly before they have time to set and become more difficult to remove.

**Preventative Measures.** A non-staining fiber mat placed near entrances will help remove deposits on shoes. Asphalt and tar deposits on shoes may discolor a vinyl floor. A coating of floor finish may help protect the flooring - if the flooring becomes discolored, the finish can be removed and the flooring recoated.

**How to Remove Most Stains.** General: Wipe up spills as soon as possible with a clean damp cloth or paper towel. Use a pickup motion toward the center of the spill to avoid spreading over a larger area. Note: If spill has dried, remove excess with a plastic spatula or other dull tool that will not cut or scratch the floor. Following is a list of some household products that may stain floorings and recommendations on how to remove them.

**Food and Beverages.** Wipe up excess with a damp cloth. Wash area with floor cleaner, rinse with water and dry. If stained, follow procedures listed for lipstick to remove.

**Tar, Asphalt.** Remove excess with plastic spatula or other dull tool that will not scratch or cut the floor. Wipe remaining residue with a clean cloth dampened with charcoal lighter fluid.\* Turn cloth frequently while wiping. Wash floor with floor cleaner, rinse, and dry.

**Rust and Grass.** Use a soft bristle brush dipped in floor cleaner to scrub the area. Rinse with water and dry. If traces of rust remain, it may be cleaned with a solution of oxalic acid\*\* (available at drug stores or hardware stores) diluted in water (ten parts water to one part oxalic acid).

**Writing Ink (water base), Mustard.** Wipe up with a water damp cloth. If stained, use liquid chlorine bleach as recommended for lipstick.

### Stain Removal (continued)

**Lipstick, Mercurochrome, Merthiolate.** Pick up excess with dry cloth or tissue. Wash area with floor cleaner or similar detergent, rinse, and dry. If surface is stained, place a white cloth soaked with full strength liquid chlorine bleach on the area for a period of up to one hour. Cover the cloth with polyethylene or plastic wrap and tape edges to prevent evaporation. Remove cloth, rinse floor with water and dry. Surface of dark colored designs may appear milky afterwards, but this will disappear overnight.

**Paint (oil base), Grease, Oil.** Wipe up excess with a damp cloth. Wet a clean white cloth with charcoal lighter fluid\* and remove remaining residue. Wash area with floor cleaner, rinse with water and dry.

**Nail Polish.** Pick up residue with a clean white cloth dampened with charcoal lighter fluid\*. Wash with floor cleaner, rinse and dry. If polish has dried, scrape off excess with a dull tool. Then lightly wipe the residue with a clean white cloth dampened with nail polish remover. Protect area from traffic for a minimum of 30 minutes.

**Candle Wax.** Peel off after cool, rinse with water and dry.

**Chewing Gum.** Use ice in a clean cloth and place on surface for approximately ten minutes. Remove cloth and peel gum from surface of flooring. Rinse with water and dry.

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### Accidental Damage

**Cigarette Burns.** Careful use of fine steel wool or cleanser will remove the scorch. Deep burns can be repaired by a qualified flooring installer.

**Abrasion or Scratches.** To remove scuffs or light scratches, apply "soft" cleanser (SoftScrub, Bon Ami) to a water dampened cloth and rub the area with mild pressure until the scratch can no longer be felt with your fingernail. Do not use extreme pressure. Rinse with cold water and dry. Then, to restore gloss to the area, buff by hand or machine buff. (A lamb's wool buffing pad can be attached to a hand drill to buff the area.)

**Cuts and Gouges.** Repair damage as soon as possible. In the meantime, cover the area with masking tape. Repairs can be easily made by professional installers or your flooring dealer, depending upon the extent of damage. Contact your dealer for advice or write for detailed instructions.

**\*CAUTION:** Charcoal lighter fluid is a flammable solvent. Exercise proper care when using. Follow cautions on container.

**\*\*CAUTION:** Oxalic acid is a toxic chemical and all precautions should be followed to prevent ingestion, inhalation, or contact with skin and eyes in either the solid or liquid form.



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**VINYL FLOOR REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT**

The following instructions detail repairs to vinyl flooring. Proper tools and materials are needed; and with some practice, most repairs can be made easily.

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**Repair of Sheet Vinyl**

The general approach to repairing involves:

1. Matching the pattern exactly when patches are put in.
2. Whenever cuts are made, they should be done in the darkest lines of the pattern and in the bottom of embossing as much as possible.

**Note:** Plan ahead to make the repair as inconspicuous as possible.

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**Tools and Material**

1. Utility knife with sharp blade.
2. Adhesive.
3. Masking tape.
4. Syringe (10 cc plastic).
5. Hand roller.
6. Sharp chisel or scraper.

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**Removal of Air Bubbles**

These are generally caused by trapping excessive air under sheet, too little adhesive applied, adhesive too dry when sheet is put down or improper rolling (roller too light, rolled too fast, etc.)

1. With a sharp blade in the utility knife, make a short slit through floor covering at edge of bubble. Hold the knife so that the cut is at an angle (45 degrees or less) pointing away from the direction in which it would be most conspicuous (usually point to nearest wall). Make cut in darkest color and in bottom of embossing, if possible.
2. Fill syringe with adhesive.
3. Using point of knife, open slit and insert end of syringe. Squeeze sufficient quantity of adhesive beneath the flooring to cover loose areas.
4. Using small hand roller, work adhesive over the entire area beneath the bubble.
5. Then roll bubble from edges toward slit to remove all trapped air and excessive adhesive.

### Removal of Air Bubbles (continued)

6. Finally roll down slit and clean up any excess adhesive. Adhesive can be removed with water when wet and mineral spirits when dry. Use caution when handling flammable solvents. If necessary, weigh down bubbled area until adhesive sets up.
7. Slit must be sealed with R-100 Seam Sealer.

**Note:** R100 sealer is obtainable through any local Tarkett floor covering distributor.

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### Repair of Small Damaged Area

Repair of small damaged area is easily accomplished, and is usually the result of a sharp object being dropped on the floor. Damage of this type is hardly noticeable initially; however, in time dirt and water will contaminate the area making it noticeable, especially if the pattern is a light color.

When a gouge or damage is roughly 1/16" x 1" or smaller in size and surface is intact, the damaged area can be repaired with R-100 Seam Sealer. Clean damaged area thoroughly. Carefully apply the seam weld to the damaged area.

**Note:** When making repairs with R-100 Seam Sealer, protect the area from traffic for 16 hours.

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### Repair Requiring Patches

Repair of accidental damage which has caused distortion or removal of the wear surface shall be repaired by removing the damaged area and replacing it with a new piece.

1. Sheet Vinyl
    - a. Find suitable piece of material to match the damaged area and cut roughly one inch over size.
    - b. Orient the patch to the pattern over the damaged area and tape in place on all the edges with masking tape.
    - c. With a clean, sharp blade in the utility knife, cut through patch and floor covering below around damaged area. Be sure cutting is done vertically and that cuts follow as much as possible dark parts of pattern or bottoms of embossed areas.
    - d. Remove patching material, saving patch. Peel the wear surface and foam interlayer from damaged area using point of knife to get started. Then remove the remaining backing adhered to floor with sharp chisel or screwdriver.
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**Repair Requiring Patches (continued)**

- e. Use recommended adhesive to adhere patch. Apply adhesive with a trowel or finger, depending on size of area. Be sure to keep cut edges free of excessive adhesive. Clean any excess adhesive from surface with mineral spirits.
- f. Seal all cuts with R-100 Seam Sealer. Do not use fin on #66 Applicator when sealing surface patches. Hold the applicator at a right angle to seam rather than in line to apply appropriate seam weld. If there are any small openings or gaps due to miscuts around edge of patch, these can be filled with a second application of seam weld.

**Note:** Insert fin of applicator the same as for seams when sealing cuts over 1" length.

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