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### GENERAL MAINTENANCE

ELEMENTAL Dryback flooring is manufactured with a high performance UV cured and ceramic bead enhanced urethane coating which offers improved maintenance characteristics for the end-user in commercial environments. All floorcoverings require a certain amount of care to look their best and many problems can be prevented before they occur. The area of usage, type and frequency of traffic on the floor will determine the type and frequency of maintenance needed. Proper cleaning, care and maintenance are an essential part of keeping your ELEMENTAL Dryback floor looking attractive. These guidelines will help to maintain the appearance and extend the life of your ELEMENTAL Dryback floor.

### FLOOR-CARE BEST PRACTICES

- Sweep daily or vacuum using only vacuums without beater bars.
- Protect the floor from tracked-in dirt and grit particles by using walk-off mats at all entrance areas.
- In order to prevent indentations and scratches, provide the legs of heavy furniture and appliances made of glass, plastic or other material with flat, non-staining protection at least 5cm in diameter. Equip swivel office chairs with large diameter castors (twin-wheel castors, type W, soft). Remove small diameter buttons from the legs of other moveable furniture and replace with felt or soft plastic glides that have bearing surfaces of no less than 2.5cm in diameter.
- When moving heavy furniture or appliances over the flooring always use the proper equipment to protect it from damage.
- Never use anything coarser than 3M equivalent red cleaning pads or brushes on ELEMENTAL Dryback flooring (see Maintenance Procedures).
- Protect your floor against burn marks. Burns from the glowing end of a cigarette, matches, or other extremely hot items can damage ELEMENTAL Dryback flooring.
- Do not flood flooring or subject to frequent standing water.
- Use latex backed door mats. Avoid the use of rubber-backed door mats as certain rubber compounds can permanently stain vinyl.
- Only use cleaning products which are designed for ELEMENTAL Dryback flooring with urethane coating.
- All ELEMENTAL Dryback floors have good resistance to stains and are not affected by the most common spills, however any spills should be cleaned up immediately. The longer the spilled materials are left on the floor, the greater the risk of permanently staining the floor. For information regarding the proper method or products to use on a specific stain, contact ELEMENTAL Customer Service on +31 (0) 881 662500.
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. During peak sunlight hours, the use of curtains or blinds is recommended. Prolonged direct sunlight can result in discolouration, and excessive temperatures might cause tiles or planks to expand.

### MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

1. **Safety:** When performing wet maintenance, always use proper signage and prevent traffic until the floor is completely dry. Always use caution and follow the safety instructions of the electrical equipment manufacturer.
2. **Initial Maintenance for a Newly Installed floor**
  - 2.1 Allow the adhesive to cure for at least 48 hours prior to wet cleaning the floor.
  - 2.2 Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove all loose dirt, dust, grit and debris.
  - 2.3 Remove any dried adhesive residue from the surface with adhesive remover or mineral spirits applied to a clean, lint-free cloth. Do not allow excessive amounts of solvents to sit on the vinyl or penetrate the joints of the flooring.

**Note: NEVER APPLY SOLVENT DIRECTLY TO FLOORING.**

- 2.4 After 48 hours damp mop the floor using a neutral cleaner.
- 2.5 If necessary, scrub the floor using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (300 rpm or less) with a neutral cleaner using the proper dilution ratio and the appropriate scrubbing brush or pad. Fit the buffer with a 3M equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor.
- 2.6 Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.

### 1. STAIN REMOVAL

To remove stubborn spots or stains from ELEMENTAL Dryback floors, always begin with mild cleaners such as a neutral cleaner. If this fails to remove the stain, use mineral spirits. Do not use harsh solvents such as lacquer thinner or straight acetone, as these can permanently soften and damage the vinyl surface. For extreme staining such as paints, permanent markers, dyes, try applying fingernail polish remover containing acetone (do not use straight acetone) applied to a soft cloth and rubbing. Subsequent to this cleaning procedure for stubborn spots, please clean the affected area with clear water to remove any residue. Any damage resulting from the use of pure solvents IS NOT covered by warranty. Always test stronger cleaning agents on sample pieces or in unnoticeable areas first.

### 2. DAILY/ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

- Clean entryway walk-off mats to remove dirt, grit, sand and other contaminants from being tracked onto the floor as needed.
- Sweep, dust mop or vacuum (without beater bar assembly) the floor thoroughly to remove all loose dirt, dust, grit and debris that can stick to and damage the surface of the floor.
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately. Spot clean using a neutral cleaner and microfiber or preferred mop.
- Damp mop the floor on a regular or daily basis using a neutral cleaner.

### 3. PERIODIC MAINTENANCE

- When necessary, scrub the floor using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (300 rpm or less) with a neutral cleaner, using the proper dilution ratio. Fit the buffer with a 3M equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor.
- Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.

#### 4. SPRAY BUFF

1. After completing steps 2.1 and 2.2 under the initial maintenance for a newly installed floor, machine scrub the floor with a neutral cleaner, using the proper dilution ratio. Fit the buffer with a 3M equivalent red or white scrubbing pad and work the solution over the floor to remove contamination and promote adhesion.
2. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.
3. Using a hand held spray bottle with floor finish or spray buff product, working in small areas (3 metres x 3 metres), lightly mist the floor and buff using an auto scrubber or rotary machine (300 rpm or less) fitted with a 3M equivalent red pad. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
4. Daily routine and periodic maintenance should be performed as stated in above sections.
5. Machine scrubbing should always be conducted prior to spraying the polishing agent.
6. **Restorative Maintenance**

If ongoing cleaning is no longer providing a satisfactory result a thorough cleaning, removal of polish and reapplication may be necessary.

1. Apply the stripper solution to the entire floor, following the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Use a low speed machine (300 rpm or less), scrub the treated floor with a scrubbing brush or pad equivalent to a 3M red pad.
3. Use a wet-vacuum or clean mop to remove the dirty stripper solution. If the floor begins to dry it may be necessary to spray clean water onto the stripper solution to remove it.
4. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with clean water. Remove the dirty residue with a wet-vacuum or clean mop and allow the floor to dry completely.
5. Next, start over by following the Finish Option.

**Notes: Never use a brush or pad more aggressive than a 3M red equivalent. Blue, green, brown and black pads will damage the surface of the floor.**

**For further information, please send an email to [customerservice@elementalbyaspecta.com](mailto:customerservice@elementalbyaspecta.com) or phone Customer Service on +31 (0) 881 662500, Monday to Friday.**