

NeverStrip

FLOOR COATINGS

Tile and Grout Cleaning and Maintenance

NeverStrip Tile and Grout Restoration Systems provide an attractive easy to maintain surface, which can provide years of quality performance in harsh commercial environments such as restrooms, kitchens and lobbies.

NeverStrip offers two alternative topcoat systems for Tile and Grout Restoration. These two systems are Thin Film and Micron Film coatings, respectively. The systems provide durable, hard, non-porous films, which keep the soil and particulate from penetrating and allow soil and marks to be easily removed. Thin Film and Micron Film coatings share many characteristics but they also have unique properties and specific cleaning and maintenance procedures.

Common Cleaning and Maintenance Procedures

Keeping the floor clean is the MOST IMPORTANT cleaning and maintenance practice to achieve the desired daily appearance and length of time between recoats.

- The most critical procedure for keeping the floor clean is to **AGITATE** the floor with water or a cleaning solution with water using a soft brush (especially in the grout lines) followed by **EXTRACTION**. The agitation suspends the soil in the water/cleaning solution and the extraction removes the soil from the flooring surface. Removal of the soil prevents it from settling back onto the floor, especially in the grout lines.
- The **AGITATION** can be done in many ways including: 1) manually with soft grout brush or deck brush or 2) with a 175-RPM floor machine and a bristle brush or 3) with an Astro Turf pad with a oscillating floor machine such as a Square Scrub (www.squarescrub.com/); or 4) by employing an auto scrubber with soft brushes, particularly cylinder brushes.
- Extraction should immediately follow agitation. Extraction can be done in many ways including: 1) a high quality, commercial wet vac with squeegee or wand or 2) an auto scrubber or 3) a portable or truck mounted rinse and reclaim system.
- The optimal and most efficient method of agitating and extracting a NeverStrip Tile and Grout Restored Floor is with an appropriate sized auto scrubber with cylinder brushes. This approach agitates, especially in the grout lines, and extracts in one step. It is the most labor efficient method and reduces the possible hazard of wet floors.

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- Examples of high quality auto scrubbers designed for commercial Tile and Grout floor cleaning for restroom, kitchens and lobbies are the Windsor Blade (www.windsorind.com/ViewCategories.aspx?Pid=80) and Windsor Pivot (www.windsorind.com/ViewCategories.aspx?Pid=1486).

Additional Common Cleaning and Maintenance Considerations

- Clean the floor daily with a clean microfiber pad or 3M Easy Trap Duster to remove loose soil, debris, hair, lint, etc.
- A traditional dust mop is not recommended, since it quickly becomes full and ineffective.
- Cotton string mop usage is discouraged and not recommended. Traditional cotton string mops are highly ineffective cleaning methods, especially for tile and grout floors. Cotton string mops do not agitate well, especially in the grout lines, and do a poor job of extraction.
- Clean the floor daily or as needed with NeverStrip's Neutral Cleaner properly diluted with water.
- Use a degreaser cleaner in replacement of the neutral cleaner when grease and oils need to be removed from the floor. Do not use cleaners with Butyl with NeverStrip's Tile Seal or Vinyl Seal.
- Spills are best removed quickly to minimize their staining or damage to the coating, especially with substances like beta dyne, brake fluid and battery acid.

Micron Systems Unique Cleaning and Maintenance Procedures:

- Once a month clean the floor with NeverStrip's Tile and Vinyl Seal Restorer. Tile and Vinyl Seal Restorer cleans and restores the coating by depositing Micro droplets of rebuilding blocks onto the Tile Seal or Vinyl Seal film.
- Do not clean Vinyl Seal and Tile Seal with acidic cleaners or acids of any sort.
- Do not clean Vinyl Seal and Tile Seal with cleaners containing citrus (de-limonene) or Butyl compounds.
- Do not use a Magic Eraser or equivalent material to clean Tile Seal or Vinyl Seal.
- Vinyl Seal and Tile Seal may be burnished to enhance appearance. The pads can range from white, champagne, aqua, tan, hog's hair and combo pads (white and hog's hair). Personal preference is the main factor on which pad to use. One can use a 1,500 or 2,000 electric burnishing machine or a propane burnisher.
- Repairs can be done in small areas by cleaning and reapplying 1-2 applications of the coatings and burnishing a larger surrounding area.
- Tile Seal and Vinyl Seal do not need to be stripped in their normal life cycle. Tile Seal and Vinyl Seal may be removed using a Butyl based stripper designed to strip conventional floor finish. Follow standard floor finish stripping procedures.
- Remove more demanding marks or deeply soiled floors by allowing NeverStrip's Neutral Cleaner to soak on the floor to soften/lift the soil and marks.

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Other Common Procedures for Thin Film and Micron Systems

Chair, Table, Furniture Glides and Wheels

NeverStrip glides should be applied and maintained on all moveable chairs, tables, fixtures and other furniture to protect the coatings from unnecessary abuse and scratching. NeverStrip's glide catalog is at www.neverstrip.com/glides.htm.

Urethane caster wheels are best for chairs, carts, etc. Rubber wheels also work well. Plastic wheels can be damaging to the coatings and are best replaced with urethane or rubber wheels.

Alcohol Hand Sanitizers

NeverStrip's coatings are resistant to many alcohol based hand sanitizers. Some hand sanitizer products can soften and damage the coatings, especially after repeated exposure from a dripping hand sanitizer unit. Test the facility's hand sanitizer product prior to application for compatibility. Using non-alcohol based hand sanitizer products and/or drip mats, catch trays and/or placing hand sanitizers over counters/sinks are recommended practices.

Matting

A proper matting system will extend the life of NeverStrip's coatings.

An outside "scraper" mat followed by a "capture matting system" at all entrances is best. This matting combination will remove a dramatic amount of particulate, soil and grit from shoes and keep the materials off of the coatings.

A matting system capturing grit, by having a lower area for the soil and grit to fall is most effective. A Best Practice is to have at least 25 feet of indoor matting or "Capture Tile Squares". Properly cleaning the matting system is an important practice to produce the "best" results.

Tape

It is best not to apply tape onto NeverStrip's coatings. If tape must be applied use a "light adhesive" tape and always verify its compatibility with the coatings before widespread use. 3M Delicate Surface (#2080) is a good choice.

Other

Stickers, gum, crayon and tape may be successfully removed from the coatings by using Goo Gone Cleaner, which softens the material prior to removal. After softening, use a saturated rag and/or plastic scraper to remove the material from the coating.

