

Cleaning guidelines for Rubber Crumb Pool Surrounds

Sliptech Ltd has been working with FlexFlooring Ltd for a number of years offering extensive experience in the cleaning and maintenance of their floors.

Floor Description

A Rubbaflex fg floor is a decorative, soft, seamless flooring system, consisting of coloured Gezoflex EPDM (synthetic rubber) granules of the size range 0.5mm to 1.5mm and a UV stable aliphatic polyurethane binder. The system is mixed on site and usually trowelled down at a depth of 6mm.

Although the granules are mixed with a polyurethane binder, there will exist very tiny pores, that allow water to pass through the surface. Rubbaflex fg should therefore be considered as a porous or permeable surface.

Non-slip Properties of the Surface

This surface has been tested in laboratory conditions in accordance with BS EN 1097-8:2000 and BS 7976: Part3:2002, measuring the coefficient of friction, as determined by the Stanley Munroe Pendulum Slip Meter using the 55 slider and registered a reading of 61.2 when wet and therefore is classified as low potential for slip.

However, it must be noted that there are also environmental factors that will influence the slip resistance of the surface.

Body Fats

When individuals leave a pool, shower area or similar, fats will find their way from the body to the floor and if not dealt with over a period of time, they will accumulate on the surface and start to develop a greasy film. These fats cannot be removed with pool water alone and can greatly increase the slip potential of a surface. It is important that they are periodically removed from the area using an approved degreaser.

Calcium and Other Minerals

Calcium or mineral deposits are a very common problem across the country. Water splashed poolside or from the mains finding its way to the surface will evaporate from that surface and leave a mineral deposit, usually calcium, which may appear white or yellow on the surface.

Cleaning regimes, cleaning chemicals and advice

Flexflooring have worked closely with Sliptech Ltd, a specialist cleaning and anti-slip solutions provider to develop a recommended a cleaning regime. However, all wet leisure environments will be different, the chemical composition of the water, the amount of foot traffic etc. all these will play a role and the following represent best practice guidelines to maintaining a clean and safe environment. It is important that you find a regime that works for you.

All cleaning products mentioned in the following guidelines are available at www.sliptech.co.uk

To maintain a safe floor and keep the aesthetic appearance, it is essential that the floor be cleaned at regular intervals, depending on surface soiling. Please observe the following guidelines:

Equipment

It is essential that the cleaning equipment is maintained on a regular basis. Dirty cleaning equipment and unmaintained machinery can lead to dirt residues building up on the surface.

Safety

Maintenance is essential on all wet surfaces. If body fats or surface residues are allowed to build up this can negate the floors natural slip resistance and cause slip issues.

General Maintenance

Clean up any spills as quickly as possible using a microfibre mop, warm water and a wet vacuum if possible.

Daily

Clean daily by flooding surface with clean water and then using a scrubber dryer to remove any surface water to avoid the hard water sitting on the surface and avoiding a calcium build up.

Twice Weekly

Clean with a 50-1 dilution of Commando, a cleaning solution which contains a water softening agent. Flood the surface prior to applying Commando, scrub thoroughly and then rinse using clean water through a scrubber dryer and vacuuming off excess liquid..

Weekly/fortnightly (as required)

Degreasing and surface contamination removal:

Apply Solaclean diluted at 30-1 to a thoroughly wetted surface using a watering can and soft brush.

Using a scrubber drier fitted with a soft brush and filled only with clean water, scrub the floor thoroughly in 2 directions, vacuuming off as you go. Ensure that the floor remains wet at all times during the cleaning procedure to achieve optimum results.

Quarterly (as required)

De-scaling and removal of ingrained dirt

Thoroughly wet the floor, then apply Class diluted 50:50 with water to small areas - scrub thoroughly with scrubber drier fitted with a soft brush and filled with clean water as in the normal cleaning programme, vacuuming off any liquids as you go.

Lightly spray the entire area with a 40:1 dilution of Commando to neutralise any remaining residues.

Should staining persist, please contact Sliptech for further advice.

Annual and periodic cleaning

For stubborn stains, a professional service may be required. For all maintenance questions please contact Sliptech on 01206 826788 or info@sliptech.co.uk

Swimming pool environment and water

All swimming pools are different. The geographical location of the pool will dictate the many chemical compounds that may occur naturally in your pool. For example, it is well known that water is harder in some areas of the UK, this means the water has a high mineral content.

Each pool will use different amounts of chemicals, such as chlorine, which will react with other man made and naturally occurring chemicals in the pool and its atmosphere.

The environment will also have an impact. If your pool is in doors, a humid environment can promote organic activity, like mould etc.

Below is a brief guide to potential cleaning issues that you may or may not come across.

Organic activity, such as mould

Normally dark in colour, bacteria combined with water, heat and light, within the rubber crumb, can promote organic growth. This can be made worse if there is a high presence of phosphates in the pool water, which acts as a food for some forms of algae.

Cleaner: Regular cleaning with Commando will control this organic growth, or if problem persists, use a Halogen based cleaner such as Powerclean.

Dissolved Metals

A greenish stain pool side indicates that there may be a high-level dissolved copper within the pool water. Similarly, a brownish stain poolside indicates that there may be a high level of dissolved Iron within the pool water. Other colours can indicate the presence of dissolved metals.

Cleaner: Use an acid based cleaner. Mineral deposits can cause a white chalky substance left on the surface, indicates a high level of minerals in the water such as Calcium or Magnesium. In small indoor environments calcium can also appear as a yellow stain poolside.

Cleaner: Use an acid based cleaner.

Maintenance Machine Recommendations

Polisher (scrubbing)
Numatic NuSpeed NR1500S

110v alternative



Scrubber Dryer (Small or Furnished Areas)
Numatic TT1840G

110v Alternative

Battery Alternative TTB1840NX



Scrubber Dryer (Large Areas)
Numatic TT4045G

110v Alternative

Battery Alternative TGB4045



We have found that Green and Whites cleaning supplies offer a good service at a competitive price
<https://www.greenandwhite.co.uk/>