

Rubbaflex: Advice and Maintenance

After the installation of your **Rubbaflex rubber surface** ongoing maintenance should be considered in line with normal housekeeping guidelines to ensure the maximum life expectancy and attractiveness of the rubber flooring. As the rubber surfacing is made from a tough EPDM rubber granule and a polyurethane resin, many years of trouble-free life can be expected providing the guidelines below are adhered to:

Maintenance Schedule

As with any surface, either indoor or outdoor, the user can see when cleaning is required, however the following recommendations are made.

Daily Inspection

Look for signs of damage, broken glass, stains due to spillage and litter. Clean/remove where necessary.

Weekly

Indoor areas should be cleaned with a wet/dry vacuum to prevent a build up of contamination, especially in high pedestrian areas. Installations should be pressure washed with plain water, using no more than 1,500 PSI with a fan jet nozzle on the washer.

Either Monthly or Quarterly (depending on usage levels)

Treat the surface with a suitable chemical cleaner (our recommended cleaners are **Pool-safe (Gel) 2 in 1**, and **Powerclean** or both (depending on requirements)), followed by a power wash, using no more than 1,500 PSI with a fan jet nozzle on the washer.

Regular Cleaning

Regular cleaning with a Rotowash scrubber-dryer or stiff nylon brush and a wet vacuum system will assist in resisting the build-up of natural calcium deposits which would be highlighted by white tide marks especially in hard water areas. The soft, contra-rotating brushes of the Rotowash will help to maintain both appearance and hygiene with the minimum of effort, and the machines can clean and dry virtually any surface, e.g. tiles, wood, even carpets! Rotowash are available in sizes ranging from 20cm brush width for small areas up to 50cm brush width for commercial sized installations.

With all Flexflooring Rubbaflex pool surround surfaces great care should be taken to ensure that the pool temperature does not exceed the air temperature, as this can promote fungal bacterial growth on your rubber floor. If this contamination has occurred, the use of chlorinated pool water will help to kill off the active bacteria providing the waste and residue is Wet-Vac'd and disposed of safely.

It is essential that **at no time** acid either from **chlorine cleaning or similar** should be spilt onto the Flexflooring Rubbaflex surface, as this will permanently bleach areas of contact.

Regular **power washing** is recommended for inside or outside installations, but care should be taken that the pressure used should not exceed 1500 PSI.

Remove puddles of **standing water** on uneven surfaces by sweeping, using a rotowash or by using a wet/dry vacuum, in order to reduce the risk of staining the rubber flooring or the promotion of algae growth.

'Shower off' areas should be isolated from the main pool hall to reduce the risk of body contaminants being carried through to the porous rubber flooring system. We recommend tiling these areas.

CAUTION!

At no time should a wire brush or aggressive mechanical device be used, as this will cause permanent damage to the rubber flooring. At no time, or for whatever reason, should chlorine bleach be used as this could cause permanent staining.

Tips for continued successful maintenance of rubber flooring

1. Remove shoes or use plastic overshoes when entering the wet leisure environment to minimise the amount of outdoor dirt.
2. Develop a regular cleaning programme directly after installation of the new floor that is suited to the usage of and/or foot traffic on the flooring:
Heavily trafficked areas need to be cleaned more often than areas which are seldom used or where appearance is less important.
Please note that dirty cleaning equipment, particularly mops, do not clean – they only re-distribute dirt.

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 indoors, a humid environment can promote organic activity, like mould etc.

IMPORTANT: If you start to notice any staining on the surface, it is vital that you attempt to clean it immediately. Some stains such as Calcium, if left will build up and become very difficult to remove. In short don't ignore the stain and allow it to build.

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: Use a Halogen based cleaner such as Sodium Hypochlorite

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

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.

Flexflooring Ltd Cleaning Products

Flexflooring Ltd stock and sell two cleaning products aimed at the above problems, one an acid based cleaner and the second a halogen based cleaner.

The **acid based** cleaner (containing hydrochloric acid) called ***Poolsafe 2 in 1 Gel***.

Poolsafe 2 in 1 Gel can be used neat or diluted dependent on soiling.

Poolsafe 2 in 1 Gel should not be used on any metal products, as it will attack metal compounds, such as stainless steel.

The **Halogen** based cleaner (containing sodium Hypochlorite) is called ***Power Clean***.

Power Clean should not be diluted.

Cleaning recommendations

The maintenance programme required will vary greatly between each installation depending on the following factors; **bather load**, **foot traffic**, **usage**: whether seasonal or full time usage, **location**: whether indoor or outdoor.

Flexflooring recommends that all rubber floors are jet washed (no more than 1500 psi) on a regular basis from new and this process is incorporated into a regular **maintenance** schedule specific to each installation.

Note

Always test cleaners with a small area first to achieve desired result. If at first the cleaner appears to have no effect, allow it to sit in the surface for a longer period of time before washing out.

At no time should different cleaning chemicals be mixed with one another. If acid and alkaline based cleaners are mixed, they may produce harmful gases.

Cleaning Agents

Flexflooring Ltd: Order on line at www.flexflooring.co.uk

Further information is available from Flexflooring Ltd. Please ensure you have the Health and Safety Data Sheet for any cleaner you intend to use.

Flexflooring Ltd has taken care to ensure that the information contained herein is correct and is given in good faith. The Company cannot, however, be held responsible for any errors or omissions and will not accept responsibility for any use that may be made of this information. Usages shown are typical and do not imply a specification and this information is based on practical experience and laboratory testing.