

A modern office interior featuring light-colored wood-look flooring. In the foreground, two pink armchairs are positioned next to a small black side table with a vase of white flowers. In the background, there are several black metal desks with black chairs, and a large window on the left side. The ceiling has exposed concrete beams and some greenery hanging from above.

Resilient Maintenance Recommendations

For All Milliken Resilient Flooring Solutions

Milliken

MAINTENANCE BENEFITS



Benefits of Proper Resilient Flooring Maintenance

- Preserves the fresh appearance of your flooring system.
- Ensures optimal performance of your flooring system throughout its lifespan.
- Prevents premature wear and aging and minimizes the formation of traffic lines.
- Guards against staining, discoloration, soiling, and odors.
- Lowers the total life cycle cost of your flooring system.

FIVE VITAL STEPS OF PROPER RESILIENT FLOORING MAINTENANCE



1 Protecting Your Flooring



2 Post Installation Protection



3 Surface Contaminate Removal



4 Spot Cleaning Best Practices



5 Deep and Restorative Cleaning

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Protecting Your Flooring *Stop Dirt at the Door*

The entryway is one of the most critical areas of your facility. The high traffic volume significantly impacts the life and condition of your flooring.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS



Occupancy Level
(volume of foot traffic)



Environmental Factors
(climate and weather conditions)



Amount of Entrance Flooring
(linear distance of effective product)



Choosing the Right Product
(materials, construction, and cleanability)

ENTRY SYSTEM PROTECTION

Consider [*OBEX™ Entrance Protective Flooring by Milliken](https://www.milliken.com/en-us/businesses/floor-covering/technical/entrance-flooring):

Ensure incoming visitors' feet make a minimum of **three contacts** with the mat surface per foot to effectively remove 85-90% of debris. The average stride is 2.5 ft per step, meaning a minimum of 12-15 ft of matting is required to achieve this.

*<https://www.milliken.com/en-us/businesses/floor-covering/technical/entrance-flooring>



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Protecting Your Flooring *Stop Dirt at the Door*

PROTECT YOUR FLOORING INVESTMENTS

Without an OBEX system, the first 6 ft of your entrance floor's finish will sustain up to **42%** damage.



A KEY TO STOPPING DIRT **IS DISTANCE**

The effectiveness of an entryway system is determined by choosing the right product and using enough of it to be impactful. We recommend 20-39 feet of protective flooring for maximum benefit.



6' STOPS **40%** OF DIRT



20' STOPS **80%** OF DIRT



39' STOPS **98%** OF DIRT

EXTEND YOUR COVERAGE

OPTIMIZE YOUR SPACE

Entryways and vestibules that are limited in length can still achieve maximum performance by using a zoned approach. Extend OBEX into the interior space with high performance flooring that looks and feels like interior carpet.



ZONE
03

Extended to the interior, past the vestibule, both **Cut** and **Loop** materials are recommended for this area for their flexible style and comfortable feel.

ZONE
02

The ideal starting point for building an effective system. Utilize space assigned for stopping dirt and moisture first. **CutX** materials are recommended for use in this area.

ZONE
01

This supplementary outdoor area's primary focus is on removing large particles of dirt. We recommend our range of **OBEX Bar** and **Grid** products.

2**Post Installation Protection***Ensure Longevity, Performance, and Appearance*

To ensure the longevity, performance, and appearance of your newly installed resilient flooring, it is crucial to implement proper post-installation protection measures. Follow these guidelines to safeguard your flooring during the initial period after installation:

1. CLEAN ADHESIVE RESIDUE

When using Milliken LVT Standard, Mosaic 95, Mosaic 98, LVT Moisture XT Adhesives:

- **Wet Adhesive:** For the best results, clean while the adhesive is still wet. Use a clean white cloth dampened with water to gently remove any adhesive residue from the face of the flooring.
- **Dry Adhesive:** If the adhesive has dried, use a clean white cloth dampened with denatured alcohol (use sparingly) to carefully clean the residue.

For the first cleaning, it is recommended to wait 5 days after installation before thoroughly cleaning the floor with a neutral pH cleaner. Some recommended options include APC by XL North or Stride by Diversey, among others. Cleaning techniques include:

- For the initial clean the use of a microfiber mop with neutral cleaner is recommended to remove loose dirt and debris.
- If necessary, use a low-speed (175 RPM) scrubbing machine with red or light green pads or a CRB machine.
- Recommended Auto Scrubber Machine: Rotary with a maximum of 175 RPM.
- When using high alkaline cleaners that are more aggressive, rinse thoroughly and allow the floor to dry, avoiding excess water that can migrate between flooring seams and cause adhesive failure.

2. ALLOW PROPER CURING TIME

Assure adhesive curing by waiting at least 24 hours before allowing any foot traffic or covering the flooring. This period is crucial for the adhesive to set properly and ensure long-term performance.

3. PROTECTION FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

If the LVT flooring is not the last portion of the construction project, the floor must be protected from construction traffic and potential damage. Cover the flooring with a protective barrier such as reinforced fiber protective board or heavy Kraft paper (minimum 60 lb). Avoid using plastic sheeting, as it may trap moisture.

2**Post Installation Protection***Ensure Longevity, Performance, and Appearance*

This section outlines essential recommendations for furniture glides and other protective measures, highlighting both preferred practices and items to avoid.

PREFERRED*:

- Use flat protective glides for furniture, at least 1.5" - 2" in diameter, made of soft materials like felt, silicone, or poly-based materials.
- Choose larger/wider glides for heavier furniture to disperse weight effectively.
- Replace small, narrow, or dome-shaped glides with flat glides for full surface contact.
- Employ felt pads for frequently moved furniture and clean them periodically.
- Inspect and replace damaged chair/table leg glides and ensure rust-proof metal protectors.
- Use soft, W-Type polyurethane wheels for rolling chairs and check for any broken or non-rotating wheels.
- Use protective boards (1/2" thick) or appropriate furniture movers when relocating heavy items.
- Protect floors from direct sunlight with appropriate window coverings.
- Conduct an audit of existing furniture glides during flooring renovations to identify potential issues.

AVOID:

- Using narrow chair glides for heavy furniture.
- Retaining small, narrow, or dome-shaped glides.
- Using nylon or hard plastic wheels, glides, or casters.
- Allowing damaged or non-functional wheels on furniture.
- Dragging heavy furniture, appliances, or fixtures directly across the floor.
- Utilizing metal or razor scrapers on the surface.

* The following are several good sites for commercial-grade replacement glides, among others:

[All Glides](#), [1-877-FloorGuy](#), [Expanded Technologies](#)

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Surface Contaminate Removal *Routine Cleaning Practices*

To ensure that any loose contamination is removed from the resilient floor, regular sweeping, dust mopping, and vacuuming are essential. Follow these recommendations to maintain the cleanliness and integrity of your flooring:

MICROFIBER DRY MOP PADS

Microfiber dry mop pads provide the most effective method for routine surface cleaning. They are highly efficient at trapping and removing dust and loose soil.

VACUUM MACHINES

Use a backpack, upright or rider vacuum machine with brush-only action for loose soil removal. This is the only vacuum process we recommend.

Ensure vacuum machines do not have bristle beater bars to avoid damaging the flooring surface.

FREQUENCY

Develop an appropriate dust, mop, and vacuuming frequency for each area, depending on its application and traffic level.



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Surface Contaminate Removal *Routine Cleaning Practices*

RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE

Microfiber Mop and Vacuuming
Frequency by Traffic Level

High Traffic

For high traffic areas such as entrances, exits, lobbies, food service areas, main corridors, elevators, and funnel and pivot points, cleaning should be performed daily. Ensure the vacuum makes at least three passes in all high traffic areas to maintain cleanliness. Additional vacuuming may need to be performed during peak use.

Medium Traffic

For medium traffic areas, including secondary corridors, conference rooms, and private offices, clean every other day to keep these spaces clean.

Low Traffic

For low traffic areas, such as minimal use corridors and seldom used conference rooms and training rooms, a weekly cleaning schedule will suffice.

Note: To ensure maximum cleaning efficiency, routinely change out the microfiber mop with a new or clean mop.

RECOMMENDED DUST MOPS AND VACUUM CLEANERS*



[*Contec Premira Laundry-Free Disposable Pads*](#)

professional.contecinc.com



[*Karcher Sensor® XP 18*](#)

karcher.com



[*Karcher CVS 65/1 BP Carpet Sweeper*](#)

hproclean.com



[*Chariot Rider Vacuum*](#)

windsorvacuums.com



[*Karcher Windsor Vac Pac 10 HEPA Backback Vacuums*](#)

windsorvacuums.com

* The above list includes examples of products that can be used for dust mopping and vacuuming. This list is not exhaustive, and there are other products available on the market that may also be suitable. The inclusion of specific products does not constitute an endorsement or warranty of their performance or suitability for any particular purpose.

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Spot Cleaning Best Practices

Protocol Recommendations

Spot cleaning is an essential component of a comprehensive maintenance program. Resilient flooring can encounter various spots and stains from multiple sources. Read below for the keys to effective spot cleaning.

PROMPT ATTENTION

Address spot stains immediately. The longer a spot remains unattended, the higher the chance it will become permanent.

EFFECTIVE PROCESS

Allow the neutral cleaner to sit for a few minutes (dwell time). This breaks the contaminant bond, making it easier to remove.

CLEAN, DON'T MOVE

Use a pump sprayer to apply a neutral cleaner that effectively breaks down oil-based contaminants. Since it is a neutral cleaner, it does not require rinsing. The spray application allows the cleaner to sit and work, breaking down contaminants without the need for heavy scrubbing.

DAILY ROUTINE

Integrate spot cleaning into your daily maintenance routine, ideally alongside the vacuuming process.

MICROFIBER MOP SYSTEM

Utilize a microfiber mop system to remove the neutral cleaner and the contaminants. Microfiber mops are effective in picking up and holding dirt and moisture.

TWO-BUCKET SYSTEM

Use a two-bucket system to rinse the mop between wet pickups. One bucket should contain the neutral cleaner solution, while the other should have clean water for rinsing the mop. This prevents cross-contamination and ensures that you are not spreading dirt back onto the floor.

Product Type	Products	Recommendation	Frequency
Neutral Cleaner	XL North LVT Wood Floor Cleaner XL North APC Diversey Stride	Neutral cleaners are designed to maintain the integrity of the flooring without causing damage. They are safe for regular use and effective for daily cleaning routines.	Daily
Alkaline Cleaner	Diversey Profi XL North TC Tile Cleaner	Alkaline cleaners are more aggressive and are best used for deep cleaning to remove stubborn dirt, grease, and other heavy soil buildups.	As needed Quarterly, Semi-annual Annually
Cleaner/ Maintainer	XL North Luster	Cleaner/Maintainers are designed to clean and maintain the floor finish simultaneously. They leave a protective layer that enhances the floor's appearance and durability.	As needed Quarterly, Semi-annual Annually

*The products listed above are examples of recommended cleaners for resilient flooring. This list is not exhaustive, and other products may also be suitable for these purposes. The inclusion of specific products does not imply an endorsement or guarantee of their performance or suitability for any particular application. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the specific flooring type and cleaner. Test any cleaning product on a small, inconspicuous area before full application to ensure compatibility with the flooring material. Always refer back to the manufacturer's guidelines for specific cleaning product application and use.

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Deep and Restorative Cleaning *Best Practices*

WHY YOU SHOULD DEEP CLEAN

- **Remove Residual Cleaning Agents:** Eliminate any leftover cleaning products or contaminants from previous cleanings.
- **Remove Heavy Soiling:** Address significant dirt build-up in high-traffic areas such as entryways and corridors.
- **Remove Soiling and Grease:** Effectively clean grease and heavy soiling in food service areas.



RECOMMENDED RESTORATIVE PROCESS

1. **Maintainence:** Maintaining the cleanliness and appearance of resilient flooring requires regular restorative cleaning. The frequency and method depend on soil load and contaminant buildup. The following process can be utilized using a neutral or alkaline cleaner.
2. **Preparation:** Determine the appropriate cleaning frequency for the area based on soil and contaminant levels.
3. **Application:** Apply cleaner using a pump sprayer. Ensure to allow adequate dwell time for the cleaner to work effectively.
4. ***Agitation:** Use a Counter Rotating Brush (CRB) machine or a floor machine equipped with a suitable brush, such as the Malish Malgrit Lite Brush (#38, red), to agitate the cleaner on the floor.
5. **Loading:** Load the floor machine with water.
6. **Cleaning:** Clean the floor thoroughly using the CRB or the floor machine.
7. **Removal:** Use a wet vacuum to remove the cleaning solution from the floor. Alternatively, a Micro-Fiber mop can be used if necessary.

* The equipment and brushes mentioned above are examples of tools that can be used for floor cleaning. There are other options available on the market that may also be effective. The inclusion of specific products does not imply an endorsement or guarantee of their performance or suitability for any particular application.

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Deep and Restorative Cleaning

Auto Scrubber Machine Recommendations

When using an auto scrubber machine for your resilient flooring, follow these guidelines to ensure proper care and maintenance:

- **Machine Speed:** Use only a slow-speed machine (175 RPM) for scrubbing.
- **Avoid Dry Buffing:** Do not dry buff vinyl floors.
- **Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT):** Never burnish LVT. If a gloss finish is desired, use an appropriate commercial-grade product.
- **Pad Selection:** Use only white, light green, or red-colored pads on Milliken Luxury Vinyl Tile. Avoid using dark green, black, or brown scrubbing pads, as these can damage floors.
- **Agitation Tool:** For agitation, use a Malish Malgrit Lite Brush (#38) or a similar product.

By adhering to these recommendations, you can effectively maintain the appearance and durability of your resilient flooring while preventing damage.



- **White:** (Low 175 rpm)
Used for light cleaning to help remove soil and scuff marks
- **Light Green:** (Low 175 rpm)
Scrub and cleans without dulling finish
- **Red:** (Low 175 rpm)
Designed for everyday cleaning and light scrubbing to remove light soil, scuff marks and black heel marks



* The scrubbing machines mentioned above are examples of equipment that can be used for floor cleaning. This list is not exhaustive, and other similar products may also be suitable. The inclusion of specific products does not imply an endorsement or guarantee of their performance or suitability for any particular application.

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Deep and Restorative Cleaning

Auto Scrubber Machine Recommendations

Multiple manufacturers offer various types of auto scrubbers suitable for different area sizes. Depending on your needs, options to choose from include:

- **Compact Auto Scrubbers:** Ideal for small areas, providing ease of maneuverability in tight spaces.
- **Stand-On Auto Scrubbers:** Suitable for medium to large areas, allowing for efficient cleaning with minimal operator fatigue.

Water and Cleaning Solutions

Always use water and ensure that cleaning solutions are properly diluted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Pad/Brush Selection

Use the applicable pad or brush recommended for your specific flooring type to avoid damage and ensure effective cleaning.

RECOMMENDED SCRUBBING MACHINES*



[BR 30/4 C](#)

[kaercher.com](https://www.kaercher.com)



[T1B Battery](#)

[tennantco.com](https://www.tennantco.com)



[T20SC Pro](#)

[hillyard.com](https://www.hillyard.com)

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FINAL OVERVIEW

PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES TO AVOID

To ensure the longevity and appearance of your resilient flooring, it is important to avoid certain products and practices that can cause damage. The following items should not be used on resilient flooring:

- Products with high pH chemicals
- Bleach or cleaners containing bleach
- Avoid using high-speed buffing machines, as these can damage the surface of resilient flooring.
- Avoid using dark green, black, or brown scrubbing pads, as they can scratch or damage the surface of the flooring



SUMMARY

- **Planned Prevention:** Implementing a proactive maintenance strategy significantly reduces long-term maintenance costs and safeguards your investment.
- **Proper Maintenance:** Consistent and appropriate upkeep is essential for all flooring types and provides a substantial return on investment over time.
- **Correct Use of Chemicals and Machinery:** Employing the right chemicals and equipment is crucial for preserving the quality and durability of your flooring.
- **Key to Longevity:** Consistent care and maintenance are fundamental to ensuring the prolonged lifespan and aesthetic appeal of your flooring product.

REFERENCES

1. Information on how to best utilize a Millicare program to meet your needs and service locations in North America can be found at millicare.com.
2. Starnet Floorcare: starnetflooring.com/floor-care
3. Milliken Quality Assurance can be reached at 1-800-528-8453.