

# **Slip-Retardant Tile**

## **EXCELON SAFETY ZONE**

In order to achieve slip-retardance, SAFETY ZONE flooring employs an embossed surface embedded with grit. This uniquely textured surface requires that close attention be paid to maintenance. Fortunately, the Fast Start Factory Finish makes initial maintenance quick and easy and does not require removal after installation. The ability to use conventional commercial floor polishes helps to minimize the added complication of cleaning an embossed surface. Do not use too much floor polish because it will reduce the slip retardant characteristics of the tile's surface. As a guideline, maintaining 4 to 5 coats at all times should be sufficient.

### **A. Initial Maintenance**

#### **Immediately After Installation**

1. Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove all loose dust and dirt.
2. Remove any dried adhesive residue with a clean, white cloth dampened with mineral spirits, carefully following warnings on the container.
3. Damp mop the floor with a properly diluted neutral detergent solution such as Armstrong S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner.

**NOTE: Do not wet wash, machine scrub, or strip the floor for at least four days after installation. This is to prevent excess moisture from interfering with the adhesive bond and/or seam treatments.**

**NOTE: Do not use brown or black pads, or equivalent brushes on any Armstrong resilient floors. Their use could result in permanent damage to the floor.**

4. Apply two coats of a high-quality commercial floor polish such as Armstrong S-480 Commercial Floor Polish. The use of a high-quality stain-resistant sealer such as Armstrong S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer beneath the polish should be considered in areas of high traffic, high soil load, and areas where staining potential is high.

**NOTE: It is important to protect the floor during the installation and construction phase. If other on-site work is continuing, consider using a protective covering such as plain, undyed kraft paper to guard against damage to the new floor. When moving heavy fixtures or appliances over the flooring on casters or dollies, the flooring should be protected with 1/4" or thicker plywood, hardboard or other underlayment panels.**

#### **Preparation for Commercial Traffic**

1. Scrub the floor with a neutral detergent solution such as Armstrong S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner and a scrubbing brush. Floor machine pads are unable to reach into the textured surface to remove dirt particles and residues. Do not use stiff-bristled, highly abrasive brushes. They may damage the floor. If the floor is badly soiled and/or scratched, strip it using the same procedure but substituting a stripping solution such as Armstrong S-490 Commercial Floor Stripper.

2. Remove dirty stripping solution with a wet vacuum or mop.

**NOTE:** The use of aggressive strippers such as mop-on/mop-off, no-scrub and no-rinse strippers is not recommended on tile floors less than two years old because they may affect the adhesive bond.

3. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water and allow it to dry completely.
4. Apply 2 to 3 coats of high-quality commercial polish, such as Armstrong S-480 Commercial Floor Polish. Another excellent choice for protection and ease of maintenance, if the floor has been stripped, is to use two coats of a stain-resistant sealer, such as Armstrong S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer followed by 2 to 3 coats of high quality commercial polish, such as Armstrong S-480 Commercial Floor Polish.

## **B. Daily/Regular Maintenance**

1. Sweep, dust mop or vacuum daily to remove dirt, grit and soil that can damage the floor and become ground into the surface. Use walk-off mats that are as wide as the doorway and long enough to trap dirt and moisture before traffic reaches the resilient floor. Remember to clean walk-off mats regularly.
2. Spills should be cleaned up immediately.
3. Damp mopping of the floor should be performed on a regular or daily basis depending upon traffic and soil levels in the building. Use a properly diluted neutral detergent solution such as Armstrong S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner.

## **C. Periodic Maintenance**

1. When needed, scrub with a single disc (300 rpm or less) or automatic floor machine equipped with non-abrasive scrub brushes.
2. If using a single disc floor machine, remove dirty cleaning solution with a wet vacuum or mop.
3. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water and allow it to dry completely.
4. If needed, additional coats of floor polish may be applied at this time.

## **D. Restorative Maintenance—Stripping**

**NOTE:** Stripping is the process of removing existing layers of sealer and finish and should only be performed when routine daily/periodic procedures are no longer effective. The use of high-quality maintenance products such as Armstrong commercial floor care products and adherence to a well-planned maintenance program will greatly reduce the need for stripping.

**NOTE:** The use of aggressive strippers such as mop-on/mop-off, no-scrub and no-rinse strippers is not recommended on tile floors less than two years old because they may affect the adhesive bond.

1. Scrub the floor with a properly diluted stripping solution such as Armstrong S-490 Commercial Floor Stripper using a single-disc or automatic floor machine (300 rpm or less) equipped with a scrubbing brush.

2. If using a single disc floor machine, remove dirty cleaning solution with a wet vacuum.
3. Thoroughly rinse the entire floor with fresh, clean water and allow it to dry completely.
4. Apply 4 to 5 coats of high-quality commercial floor polish, such as Armstrong S-480 Commercial Floor Polish. The use of a high-quality stain-resistant sealer such as Armstrong S-495 Commercial Floor Sealer should be considered in areas of high traffic, soil load and staining potential.

