

CONTRACTOR SELECTION

It is important that the project manager/owner selects a contractor with appropriate technical expertise and experience and also with a financial position commensurate with the magnitude of the project. Referral lists on similar projects and financial statements should be sought on major tenders.

The following checklist could be useful:

1. How long has the contractor been applying the relevant product? Ask for references on past installations.
2. How many project superintendents and qualified applicators does the contractor employ? Ask for personnel precis.
3. Has the contractor applied the specified system? Insist that the contractor include all relevant Nuplex warranty documents with his bid.
4. What type of spray or other equipment does the contractor use? Is the quality and size of equipment commensurate with the size of the project?
5. What geographical area does the contractor do business in?
6. Has the contractor the financial resources commensurate with the size of the project?

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF TERRAFLAKE POLYURETHANE SEAMLESS FLOORING

ADVICE TO THE CUSTOMER & FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES

One of the major benefits of **Terraflake** floors is the ease of cleaning. At the completion of the job, remind the customer of this fact and that he/she will save on maintenance costs in the future. Copies of "Care and Maintenance of a Terraflake Floor" are available from the Nuplex Construction Products office.

Always leave a chemical/stain resistance chart with the customer.

Advise the customer to keep the floor dry for a minimum of 3 days after completion.

Daily Maintenance

Sweep or dry vacuum to remove dirt and dust. Loss of gloss on **Hydroflor** floors is the eventual result of heavy foot traffic and gritty contaminants, not foot traffic alone.

Weekly Maintenance

Sweep as above, followed by wet mopping with a mild foaming detergent. A stiff bristle broom may be needed on occasions.

Tyre Marks

Experience has shown that some tyres – particularly new or hot tyres – may cause staining of the upper layers of polyurethane. This is a problem frequently encountered in car showrooms and is believed to be due to a reaction between chemicals used in tyre manufacture and the urethane resins. For car showrooms, the best preventative method is to prepare "Masonite" panels coated with the same **Terraflake** Floor System over which the tyres can be parked. In domestic car garages, the customer should be told to park outside for 7 days while the coating reaches initial cure and then park on cardboard squares for the next 3 weeks (summer) and 4 weeks (winter). Customers should be advised that office furniture legs should be fitted with nylon or other non-rubber plastic feet for the same reason.

What the Customer should NOT DO

Floors need not be buffed (as for vinyl flooring) or waxed. Apart from being unnecessary, wax build-up will cause loss of gloss and possible discolouration. Emulsion cleaner/polishes (such as 'One Go') are not necessary for the same reason.

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF NUPLEX SURESHIELD AND SURECOTE 500 FLOORS

These flooring systems are a specially compounded mixture of resin (epoxy or polyester) and aggregate that provides an impermeable, monolithic flooring which becomes an integral topping on your existing concrete base.

CLEANING

If you have specified a non-slip surface, these pointers to cleaning techniques will be helpful. Areas that require a little attention when cleaning are:

- those processing high melting point fats (beef, chicken, sheep, lards)
- those processing gums, starches and adhesives
- those specified as EXTRA non-slip floors
- those subject to forklift trucks with black tyres

Thorough cleaning always requires some physical effort. In most of the instances above, hot water, detergent and a short bristle broom are most effective. Power scrubbers have been found most efficient on these surfaces.

THINGS TO AVOID

Although the floor is tougher and stronger than concrete (its abrasion resistance is 3-6 times that of basalt-concrete, according to USA Army Corps of Engineers Method C52) there are certain precautions which will ensure maximum effective life:

- (i) Avoid the use of very strong chemicals, outside those shown on the Nuplex chemical resistance charts. Familiarise yourself with these to give your flooring the opportunity to deliver the high standard of performance for which it was developed, or ask your cleaning supplier to contact Nuplex Construction Products for advice.
- (ii) Avoid extreme thermal shocks where possible. For instance, a floor in a blast freezing chamber which is suddenly drenched with boiling water is an example of thermal shock. If subjected to extreme heat or cold, the floor should desirably be allowed to return to ambient temperature before washing.

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SHOULD DAMAGE OCCUR

Although these floors are recognised as one of the toughest flooring systems available, they are not indestructible, and the following may occur:

Chips

Hard knocks or forklifts may chip or damage the surface. However, their monolithic construction means that superficial damage will not detract from its chemical resistance or impermeability. Its toughness and thickness mean that such damage is unlikely to puncture it, exposing the concrete substrate.

Delamination

This term means the topping separating from the substrate. The superior bonding virtually eliminates delamination to sound substrate. Delamination can lead to cracking and accumulation of liquids under the topping, resulting in corrosion or unhygienic conditions. Should delamination occur, contact Nuplex Construction Products in the first instance or the flooring contractor.

Cracks

These are due to substrate movements, and can cause corresponding cracks in the topping. This will detract from the protective or hygienic seal. In cases of excessive concrete movement, a false joint can be created and sealed with a flexible acid-resistant compound.

Equipment Re-Location

This does not present any problem so far as your new flooring is concerned. Areas can be cut out and re-trowelled back to grade with minimum disruption due to the relatively rapid curing period.

FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES

Despite the excellent resistance to wear, and a range of chemicals, **Terraflake** Floors will eventually wear in very high traffic situations, be damaged due to physical abuse or be attacked or stained by aggressive chemicals.

Wear in High Traffic "Torture" Areas

Loss of gloss and surface texture in **Terraflake** floors as a result of heavy traffic, especially when the floor has not been regularly swept or vacuumed, usually occurs in passages, doorways, behind bars and other "torture" areas. In these situations, re-glazing may be necessary 3-5 years following installation.

It is very important to rectify these areas BEFORE the floor wears down to the flake layer, when the procedure becomes more complicated and costly. Both recoating and reflaking are covered later in this section.

Minor Repairs

Chips, hollows and other damaged areas can be flush-filled with a putty made from **Aquakem** and cement filled with talc or fine sand. Allow this to cure overnight. Reflaking and recoating will be necessary.

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Severe Stains or Solvent Attack

If "normal" cleaning procedures are unsuccessful in removing these contaminants, then the top polyurethane layer(s) must be removed and then relaid. Recoating however, normally requires that most of the top layer is to be removed.

Reglazing

1. Thoroughly clean the existing **Terraflake** floor using water blasting and/or suitable cleaning agents to remove all moss, lichen, dirt, grease, oil, chalked or flaking material and any other contaminants.
2. Thoroughly abrade the cleaned surface using coarse grit abrasive paper, making sure not to damage the coating down to the flake layers. Contain and remove all dust.
3. Refer to "Minor Repairs" if applicable (see above).
4. Apply **Flexathane** to the area at an approximate coverage rate of 7.6 m²/L.
5. Apply two additional coats of **Flexathane** at the same coverage rate. A fourth coat should be applied in the following circumstances: when the floor is severely worn; if minor repairs are necessary and/or if reflaking is required.

Reflaking

This will be necessary if wear has occurred down to (or past) the existing chip layer, or if physical repairs have been carried out. Selective reflaking requires considerable skill to achieve the same pattern as the existing floor. Experiment beforehand to develop the right technique. Always attempt to use the same chip blend as originally employed. For example: using chips broomed from the original floor during application. The chips are scattered into the first layer of new glaze and GENTLY rolled in. Excessive "working" of the area will tend to break up and/or partially dissolve the chips. Allow the glaze to cure, then scrape off all excess chips before recoating. Further tips when flaking into polyurethane will be found in Section 5.

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