

# Rubber Stair Tread Maintenance

## COMPANY INFORMATION

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## PRODUCT MAINTENANCE

### 1. General

**DO NOT** scrub or mop the stair treads for at least 72 hours after the installation is completed to allow the adhesive and caulking compound to properly cure. Remove any covering that may have been used to protect the stair treads. The stair treads must be properly cleaned before being released for normal use. Insufficient cleaning will reduce the life and performance of the stair treads. The amount of maintenance required is directly related to the amount and type of traffic and type of particulates deposited on the stair treads. It is essential that the initial maintenance be performed on the stair treads to remove any particulates or contaminants left from the installation process and prepare the stair treads for use. **DO NOT** use treated mops and thoroughly clean new mops before use. **DO NOT** use kerosene, gasoline, naphtha and/or other solvents on rubber stair treads. **DO NOT** use varnish, shellac, paste wax and/or other substances that could discolor or damage the stair treads.

### 2. Initial Maintenance

When the stair treads are brand new, there is a light coating of a silicone mold release agent on the face of the stair treads and risers from the manufacturing process. This has to be removed with the initial maintenance. Sweep, dust mop and/or vacuum the stair treads to remove dirt and other particulates. Use a mild, neutral (ph 7-8) cleaner such as Spartan Chemical's Damp Mop or Green Solutions All Purpose Cleaner. If a disinfectant is required, use Spartan Chemical's DMQ Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner or Green Solutions Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for dilution and use for a medium duty cleaning. Apply the diluted cleaning solution to the stair treads with a soft-bristled desk brush or nylon mop. **DO NOT** flood the stair treads. Allow the cleaning solution to stand for approximately 10-15 minutes. **DO NOT** allow solution to dry. Scrub with a soft-bristled deck brush or single disc hand held 175 RPM scrubbing machine with a soft bristle deck brush or a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad. Ensure brush or pad does not scratch the flooring. Wet vacuum or mop up residue. Rinse with clean, cool water. Remove the rinse water with a wet/dry vacuum and allow stair treads to dry thoroughly before exposing to traffic. The use of a highly alkaline, highly acidic or solvent-base cleaners or products will remove color from the stair treads or degrade the stair treads prematurely. **DO NOT** use sweeping or cleaning agents containing oil or solvents. **DO NOT** allow the solution to work its way beneath the stair treads which could result in an adhesive failure. **Caution:** When wet, stair treads will become slippery; therefore, use the appropriate warning signs on the stair treads to eliminate foot or other traffic.

### 3. Regular Maintenance

Sweep, dust mop and/or vacuum the stair treads to remove dirt and other particulates. Use a mild, neutral (ph 7-8) cleaner such as Spartan Chemical's Damp Mop or Green Solutions All Purpose Cleaner. If a disinfectant is required, use Spartan Chemical's DMQ Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner or Green Solutions Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for dilution and use for a general or light duty cleaning. Apply the diluted cleaning solution to the stair treads with a soft-bristled desk brush or nylon mop. **DO NOT** flood the stair treads. Allow the cleaning solution to stand for approximately 10-15 minutes. **DO NOT** allow solution to dry. Scrub with a soft-bristled deck brush or single disc hand held 175 RPM scrubbing machine with a soft bristle deck brush or a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad. Ensure brush or pad does not scratch the flooring. Wet vacuum or mop up residue.

Rinse with clean, cool water. Remove the rinse water with a wet/dry vacuum and allow stair treads to dry thoroughly before exposing to traffic.

#### 4. Dry Buffing

**DO NOT** dry buff the stair tread until it has been cleaned using the process in 7.2 or 7.3. Dry buffing should be performed on routing basis to maintain the stair treads natural surface luster. Ensure the stair treads are completely dry. For large installations, dry polish with single disc hand held 175 RPM scrubbing machine with a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad. **DO NOT** heel the machine or scratch the stair treads. For small installations, use a soft clean cloth wrapped around a narrow push broom. Over time with the dry buffing process, the small pores on the surface of the stair treads will close and the surface will become harder. This is a natural process with Rubber Stair Treads and as this occurs, the maintenance on the stair treads will become easier and less frequent.

#### 5. Optional Floor Sealer/Finish Application

If a sealer/finish is preferred, ensure the stair treads are is completely clean (section 7.2). Once the stair treads have completely dried, test for proper adhesion by applying sealer/finish product recommended for rubber flooring. There are several that have been tested in conjunction with Flexco stair treads and used with success. Spartan Chemical's Green Solutions Floor Seal & Finish is the recommended product, although there are others that can be used. Apply sealer/finish to a small area with a sponge and allow to completely dry. If the finish pulls back and does not level out, repeat step 7.2 until the sealer/finish is firmly bonded. If the sealer/finish does level and is firmly bonded, continue with the application according manufacturer's recommendations. Apply 1-2 light coats of the sealer/finish that meets your traffic and maintenance needs. Each coat of sealer/finish must be applied in opposite directions to ensure proper coverage regardless of the stair tread profile. Contact your Spartan Chemical Representative or Spartan Chemical (800-537-8990) directly for proper finish recommendations to meet specific traffic and maintenance requirements. **Caution:** Applying sealers/finishes will darken the stair treads original color. When applying sealers/finishes always check first for compatibility, bonding and color darkening of the stair treads by testing on a scrap piece of flooring to ensure the desired results and appearance is achieved. **Caution:** When sealers/finishes are used, the stair tread surface will take on the slip resistance characteristics of that particular coating. Flexco will not be held liable for the slip resistance effects of Flexco stair treads that have a sealer/finish applied. **DO NOT** allow the solution to dry or work its way beneath the stair treads, which will result in an adhesive failure. Sealers/finishes can be broken into two different categories based upon the frequency of the maintenance schedule. A frequent maintenance schedule can be described as "at least twice a week or as often as every day". Spartan Chemical has several product solutions that can be used within this maintenance schedule; High Frontier, Upper Limit's, TriLinc, Trendsetter Sealer/Finish, Pro-Shine, Heavy Duty Wax 16% and Glacier. These Finishes must be burnished (polished until shinny) in order to maintain gloss levels. The burnishing frequency will depend on several factors including but not limited to the following: Type of finish, traffic, equipment, internal/external conditions, type of floor, labor/budget available, and end user expectations. An infrequent maintenance schedule can be described as "once a week to never". Spartan Chemical products designed to be used within this maintenance schedule are: Millennia Bright Dura Gloss Laminate, Sheen 17, White Sun Sunny-Side, iShine, On an' On, Terra Glaze and Green Solutions Floor Seal & Finish. These products are considered Dry-Bright Finishes which dry to a particular gloss and remain that way. Gloss loss with these finishes is due to superficial wear and tear. Burnishing, spray buffing and/or using a finish restorer will restore the gloss to these areas.

#### 6. Routine Maintenance for Optional Sealer/Finish Applications

Insufficient cleaning will reduce the wear life and the appearance of the stair treads or optional sealers/finishes. The amount of maintenance required is directly related to the amount and type of traffic and type of particulates deposited on the stair treads. Sweep, dust mop and/or vacuum the stair treads to remove dirt and other particulates. Use a mild, neutral (ph 7-8) cleaner such as Spartan Chemical's Damp Mop or Green Solutions All Purpose Cleaner. If a disinfectant is required, use Spartan Chemical's DMQ Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner or Green Solutions Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for dilution and use for a general or light duty cleaning. Apply the diluted cleaning solution to the stair treads with a soft-bristled desk brush or nylon mop. **DO NOT** flood the stair treads. Allow the cleaning solution to stand for approximately 10-15 minutes. **DO NOT** allow solution to dry. Scrub with a soft-bristled deck brush or single disc hand held 175 RPM scrubbing machine with a soft bristle deck brush or a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad. Ensure brush or pad does not scratch the flooring. Wet vacuum or mop up residue. Rinse with clean, cool water. Remove the rinse water with a wet/dry vacuum and allow stair treads to dry thoroughly before exposing to traffic.

**7. Existing Floor Sealer/Finish Removal**

To remove existing finishes/sealers, first the stair treads must be properly cleaned by first sweeping or vacuuming to remove dirt and other particulates. Strip with either Spartan Chemical's Rinse Free Stripper or Green Solutions Floor Finish Remover. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for dilution and use for a medium duty cleaning. Apply the diluted cleaning solution to the stair treads with a soft-bristled deck brush or nylon mop. **DO NOT** flood the stair treads. Allow the cleaning solution to stand for approximately 10-15 minutes. **DO NOT** allow solution to dry. Scrub with a soft-bristled deck brush or single disc hand held 175 RPM scrubbing machine with a soft bristle deck brush or a 3M 4100 White Super Polish Pad. Ensure brush or pad does not scratch the flooring. Wet vacuum or mop up residue. Rinse with clean, cool water. Remove the rinse water with a wet/dry vacuum and allow stair treads to dry thoroughly before exposing to traffic. Reapply sealer/finish as described in section 7.5.