



Products covered by this document are FlexTuft Non-Vulcanized and FlexTuft Vulcanized Recycled Rubber Tile in all available colors.

This document is intended to provide a starting point for Commercial Cleaning, Care & Maintenance of these products, each unique application may require additional or further steps to ensure complete satisfaction. Please refer to the general information and then the table of contents for the specific product information. If you need a project specific maintenance document or if there are any questions or concerns, please reach out to solutions@rhctechnical.com.

1. RECOMMENDED CLEANERS, FINISHES, & FINISH REMOVERS..... 1
2. RUBBER FLOORING CARE & MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW.....2
3. CARE & MAINTENANCE PROCESS.....2
3.1 POST INSTALLATION, PRIOR TO SERVICE MAINTENANCE.....2
3.2 DAILY CLEANING .....3
3.3 ROUTINE MAINTENANCE .....3
4. FLOORING PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS .....3

Prior to acceptance of this document refer to product website to confirm that you have the most current revision. For additional technical support, send an e-mail to solutions@rhctechnical.com.

1. RECOMMENDED CLEANERS, FINISHES, & FINISH REMOVERS

Rubber flooring is considered a resilient flooring product tending or able to recover from strain or deformation caused especially by compressive stress as defined by ASTM. Similar products in this category are cork, linoleum, vinyl, etc. It is not similar in nature to "Hard Surface" products such as glazed ceramic, terrazzo, porcelain, quarry tile, polished or stained concrete, etc.

Cleaning chemistry that is designed specifically for Hard Surface flooring or flooring with finishes should not be utilized to clean & maintain rubber flooring. Similarly, products designed for Multi-Surface cleaning such as glass, counters, bathrooms, etc. should not be utilized to clean & maintain rubber flooring.

Hard Surface and Multi-Surface cleaners are not the same as neutral pH floor cleaners as they typically contain either hydrogen peroxide or citric acid chemistry and they may not be appropriate to use in place of these products.

Industry standards for pH neutral cleaners do vary, we consider pH neutral to be within a pH range of 6.5 - 8.0 at time of use with proper dilution per manufactures instructions. Using the incorrect maintenance chemistry or using the correct maintenance chemistry incorrectly can and will cause damage to the product that is not covered by the product warranty.

Excelsior NC-900 Neutral Cleaner is a pH neutral all-purpose cleaner for the post installation and daily cleaning of Resilient flooring products

Alternate products that provide similar results and may be used following our recommended practices and the dilution ratios provided by the manufacturer for the stated process are XL North XL APC All Purpose Cleaner, Hillyard Top Clean, Spartan Chemicals Damp Mop, Ecolab High Performance Neutral Floor Cleaner, Diversey Stride, Diversey Profi, Diversey Stride Citrus\*,

\*Products that contain fragrances such as citrus or contain citrus oils will require additional processes or maintenance cycles such as rinsing to remove the buildup of these fragrances and oils on the surface of the product



Since there are many maintenance products available today for the commercial environment, we cannot evaluate each available product for fitness of use. We have thoroughly evaluated these products and recommend their use. Use proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) recommended by the chemistry product SDS and ensure all maintenance procedures are conducted per the cleaning products instructions. The use of Caution Tape and/or Wet Floor Signs is recommended to prevent slips and falls.

**The use of the incorrect maintenance chemistry or the incorrect use of the correct chemistry for the maintenance of Rubber Flooring can and will cause damage to the product that is not covered by the product warranty. If you have a question about the fitness of use of other products, please contact customer service or technical services.**

## **2. RUBBER FLOORING CARE & MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW**

The following recommendations for rubber flooring are based on standard production runs of product and the recommended chemistry installed in a commercial environment. As everyone is aware of, manufacturing will contain some variances. Also, not all chemistry within the categories of our recommended products will work in the same manner. Finally, depending upon the stage of the construction project and the protection utilized after installation will change the conditions of the flooring surface being initially maintained. We state this information to provide guidance and a starting point to maintain the rubber flooring.

***Important Note: Cleaning is meant to be understood as the process of removing unwanted substances, such as dirt and other impurities, from flooring and/or service environment. Maintenance is meant to be understood as the routine recurring work required to keep flooring in such condition that it may be continuously used, at its original or designed capacity and efficiency for its intended purpose.***

## **3. CARE & MAINTENANCE PROCESS**

Post installation maintenance is required on recycled rubber flooring to prepare the material for use after the installation process. There is no "mold release" product on this material. Ensure that adhesive has cured for recommended period prior to conducting post installation maintenance.

Depending on traffic, routine maintenance will need to be performed regularly within the first year of the installation. Within this time, ensure daily maintenance is performed to maintain the appearance of the flooring material.

### **3.1 POST INSTALLATION, PRIOR TO SERVICE MAINTENANCE**

Remove any protective coverings prior to maintenance. Vacuum flooring to remove any dirt, dust, or debris.

For interior installations, use a high-CFM, high velocity vacuum to remove dust, dirt and debris that has collected on the surface.

For minor stains, mix 2-4 ounces of Excelsior NC-900 in a gallon of clean, potable water. Apply cleaning solution to the area using a pump-up sprayer and let stand for 10-15 minutes.

***Using a portable box extractor or truck-mount unit with a carpet wand,*** utilize the hot water extraction method to remove the soil. Make sure to dry stroke to leave minimal water on the flooring material.



### **3.2 DAILY CLEANING**

Sweep and/or thoroughly vacuum flooring to remove any dirt, dust, or debris.

### **3.3 ROUTINE MAINTENANCE**

Routine maintenance is seen as something that needs to be done on a regular basis. Routine could be twice a week, weekly, etc. Given that each installation is different, the frequency of the routine will be determined by the following factors: type of soil or debris, type of facility, location within the facility, and use of the facility. It is likely the routine can and will change depending on factors such as time of year, increased or decreased use, etc.

Vacuum flooring to remove any dirt, dust, or debris.

Areas that are exposed to repeated traffic that may track in dirty rainwater, dirt, debris, or deicing mixtures may cause a build-up on the surface of the material.

Mix 4 ounces of Excelsior NC-900 Neutral Cleaner to a gallon of clean, potable water. Use a pump-up sprayer to apply cleaning solution to the area and let stand for 10-15 minutes.

**Using a counter rotating brush machine**, scrub the flooring material while wet.

**Using a portable box extractor or truck-mount unit with a carpet wand**, utilize the hot water extraction method to remove the soil. Make sure to dry stroke to leave minimal water on the flooring material.

Depending on traffic, routine maintenance will need to be performed regularly, especially with the changing of seasons or environmental conditions.

## **4. FLOORING PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Do not slide or drag anything across the flooring. When moving appliances or furniture, protect flooring from scuffing and tearing using temporary floor protection.

All furniture, fixtures, and/or moving equipment casters should be made of a soft material such as neoprene rubber designed for use on resilient flooring and must have a contact point of at least 1" in width to aid in reduction of indentation and flooring damage.

All rolling chairs or seating should have a resilient flooring chair pad installed over the finished floor or have proper castors installed for resilient to protect floor covering.

All fixed furniture legs should have permanent felt or soft rubber floor protectors installed on all contact points and to help reduce indentation. Floor protectors must have a flat contact point of at least 1 sq. in. or 1 in. diameter and must cover the entire bottom surface of the furniture leg.

All doorstops need to be constructed of either rubber or vinyl and free of burrs and damage.

Ensure all furniture castors, chair legs, and doorstops are clean and free of all dirt and debris. Routinely clean and/or chair castors, furniture legs, and doorstops to ensure that dirt or debris has not built up or become embedded.

Place walk-off mats at outside entrances. Ensure mats are manufactured with non-staining backs to prevent discoloration. Walk off mats do provide a level of protection and are critical to the reduction of soil and debris levels within the facility. If chosen not to use them, we can guarantee your maintenance will be more difficult.