

## Installation Accessories

### RUBBER TILE | STAIR TREADS

The formulation of Armstrong rubber products contains self-releasing waxes that will migrate to the surface and help to produce a natural luster. It takes about a month for these waxes to migrate enough to attain a satisfactory luster. The rubber product may have a tendency to “track” and require additional maintenance during this break-in period.

If additional luster is desired, Armstrong recommends using a cleaning and maintenance emulsion which contains a small amount of synthetic wax or wax-like additive.

#### For Best Results

- ⚠ When performing wet maintenance, always use proper signage and prohibit traffic until the floor is completely dry.
- ⚠ Do not wet wash, machine scrub or strip the floor for at least the first 4 days after installation. This is to prevent excess moisture from interfering with the adhesive cure and bond.
- ⚠ Do not use strong solvent-containing cleaners or other harsh chemicals such as turpentine or acetone.
- ⚠ Do not use stripping solutions like those commonly used on vinyl floor coverings.
- ⚠ Do not use black, brown, blue, red or beige maintenance pads or other types of abrasive pads such as steel wool.
- ⚠ Do not use cleaning or polishing machines that exceed 350 rpm.
- ⚠ The use of floor finishes is NOT recommended for Armstrong rubber tile and treads.
- ⚠ During the break-in period do not “over clean” or use harsh detergents (high pH), which may reduce the emergence of the natural waxes.
- ⚠ If it becomes necessary to move any 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. 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.

#### A. Initial Maintenance and Preparation for Commercial Traffic – Immediately After Installation

The removal of any adhesive on the face of the tile should be completed by the flooring contractor while the adhesive is fresh. If adhesive residue is still uncured or soft, remove with mineral spirits or warm water and a soft, clean cloth. If adhesive residue has been allowed to cure, removal will be very difficult. The following steps may be helpful:

- Apply mineral spirits with a clean cloth.
- Allow to stand for five minutes.
- Gently chip off residue with a wooden or plastic spatula. Do not use steel wool or other types of abrasive pads or cleaners.

- Wipe dry and repeat if necessary.

Some dullness in the product's finish may result but will disappear with normal maintenance.

1. Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor thoroughly to remove all loose dust, dirt, grit and debris.
2. Remove any ground-in soil and any residual manufacturing mold release agent by applying a properly diluted neutral (pH of 7to8) cleaning solution, such as Diversey<sup>TM/MC</sup> Profi<sup>TM/MC</sup> or equivalent. (Do not flood the floor.)
3. Allow the solution to stand for 5to10 minutes or follow the maintenance product manufacturer's recommendations. DO NOT ALLOW THE SOLUTION TO DRY. Then scrub as follows:

Large installations—Use a single or double brush floor scrubbing machine or automatic scrubber (150–300 rpm) equipped with a 22-gauge flagged nylon bristle brush or other scrubbing brush suitable for use on rubber flooring.

Small installations—Use a deck brush or floor scrubbing machine as described above.

Note: It is important to use a “flagged (split ends or sanded ends of fibers) nylon” cleaning brush with open spaces and flexible brush ends to clean the high and low surfaces of Armstrong rubber tile without stripping the natural migrating waxes off of the studs. For recommended wet cleaning brushes contact:

Carlisle Sanitary Maintenance Products; Phone: 800-654-8210 or [www.carlislefps.com](http://www.carlislefps.com)  
Malish Corporation; Phone: 800-321-7044 or [www.malisch.com](http://www.malisch.com)

4. Remove cleaning solution with a mop or wet vacuum.
5. Rinse with clean, cold water to remove residual spots or streaks and allow to dry completely.
6. There are two options for added luster:
  - a) The floor may be buffed with a floor machine (speed not to exceed 350 rpm) using a polishing brush suitable for use on rubber flooring. Do not heel the machine.
  - b) Apply a combination cleaner and maintainer such as Diversey<sup>TM/MC</sup> WiWax<sup>TM/MC</sup> or equivalent as directed on the label.
    - Allow the solution to stand or soak for 5to10 minutes, agitate with the mop or scrub as needed, then remove the excess solution with a mop. DO NOT RINSE.
    - Let the floor dry completely.
    - When dry, the surface may be buffed to a uniform luster with a rotary floor machine (rpm not to exceed 350 rpm) using a polishing brush recommended for use on rubber flooring. The additives in the Diversey<sup>TM/MC</sup> WiWax<sup>TM/MC</sup> or

equivalent will help in providing surface protection and gloss until the self-contained wax reemerges.

#### **B. Continuing Regular Maintenance**

1. Sweep, dust mop or vacuum daily to remove all loose dust, dirt, grit and debris 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. As needed, using a properly diluted, neutral (pH 7 to 8) detergent solution such as Diversey<sup>TM/MC</sup> Profi<sup>TM/MC</sup> or equivalent, agitate or scrub as required using a mop, deck brush or single-disc machine/automatic scrubber equipped with a 22-gauge flagged nylon bristle brush or other suitable scrubbing brush.
3. Rinse with clean water and allow to dry.
4. When dry, the floor may be buffed to a uniform luster with a small rotary floor machine (rpm not to exceed 350) and a polishing brush suitable for use on rubber flooring. Small areas may be buffed with a clean towel, by hand or with a towel wrapped around a broom.

**NOTE: To maintain the desired gloss, the application of Diversey<sup>TM/MC</sup> WiWax<sup>TM/MC</sup> or equivalent as directed above in Initial Maintenance and Preparation for Commercial Traffic may be used as needed or desired. This should only be done on floors that have been properly cleaned.**

#### **Color-Integrated Vinyl and Rubber WALL BASE Maintenance**

1. Wash with a neutral detergent solution such as Armstrong S-485 Commercial Floor Cleaner diluted 3 to 4 ounces per gallon in water, using a sponge or clean cloth.
2. If a higher gloss or protective finish is required, apply two coats of a high-quality commercial floor polish, such as Armstrong S-480 Commercial Floor Polish.