



CLEANING & MAINTAINING POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORS

A guide to properly clean and maintain your polished concrete floors

The Benefits of Polished Concrete

Exceptionally durable concrete makes a fantastic flooring choice for industrial sites, commercial spaces, and retail facilities due to its versatile decorative look and cost-effective life cycle

Ecologically Efficient

The structural slab is used as the finish so no other materials are harvested to cover it

Low Maintenance

Polished concrete is easy-to-clean and doesn't require stripping and waxing like previous retail floor systems

Reflectivity

The reflective surface brightens the facility and reduces the need for artificial lighting

Versatility

Polished concrete can be designed in any color, sheen, or aggregate exposure to work with any decor

Cost Effective

The durability of polished concrete combined with its enduring life cycle make it one of the most cost effective flooring solutions available

Highly Durable

True polished concrete does not rip or scuff because there is no topical coating on the surface and it holds up to high traffic and abuse

Non-Pollutant

Polished concrete installation releases no Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), therefore the floor does not emit airborne contaminants

Allergen Free

Polished concrete harbors no dust-mites, dander or mold

THE BASICS OF CLEANING POLISHED CONCRETE



There is a common misconception that polished concrete means no maintenance, when in reality keeping up a polished floor simply requires low maintenance. Steps must be taken to ensure a completed floor maintains its finished look. This guide will outline common problems for polished concrete floor owners and how to remedy them with the safest, most cost-effective solutions.

Obviously, your polished floor was an investment, so protecting it is of utmost importance. That said, polished concrete flooring just like any flooring surface, requires regular cleaning, potential stain remediation and periodic restoration. With the proper equipment, chemicals, pads, etc. you can ensure not only a long-term floor, but a lifetime floor.

Although polished concrete floors are extremely durable through the densification and polishing process, they will eventually lose their beautiful shine if not properly maintained, especially if they are in high-traffic commercial or retail facilities. The good news is that while polished concrete floors are not maintenance-free, they generally are easier to maintain, since they require no waxing or sealers.

The exact maintenance regimen needed, and the frequency of cleaning is largely dictated by the amount of traffic the floor receives. High-traffic areas will require more frequent cleaning. Placing walk-off mats or rugs on the floor in high-traffic areas such as entryways will help catch dirt before it reaches the floor.

Routine maintenance for polished floors consists of daily dust mopping to remove dirt and grime accumulation that can abrade the surface of polished concrete. Frequent wet mopping is also needed. Although only clean water can be used, you will have greater success using a floor cleaner, such as Ameripolish Rejuvenating Cleaner, to suspend the dirt particles so they can be more easily removed.

CHECKLIST FOR CLEANING / MAINTAINING POLISHED FLOORS

- Dust mop the floor daily with a microfiber pad to keep dirt particles off the floor. Soils act as an abrasive and can ruin the clarity and shine of polished concrete.
- If wet mopping the floor, always use clean water and clean mops. For large square footage areas use an automatic floor scrubber equipped with Diamashine Maintenance Pads, or a non-abrasive pad such as a white pad. Mop and bucket cleaning can be used in smaller areas.
- When wet mopping, use a neutral floor cleaner such as Ameripolish Rejuvenating Cleaner that is formulated to suspend the dirt particles so they can be more easily removed. Using water only leaves much of the dirt on the floor, where it will eventually abrade and discolor the surface. Never use products containing ammonia, bleach, or vinegar as they can damage the surface of the concrete.
- Try to clean spills and stains from the floor as quickly as possible so they do not absorb into the surface. If left too long spills may etch or stain the concrete which can be hard or impossible to remove.
- Give the cleaner enough time to start breaking down the grime, grease, and other contaminants, and then suspend the particles. If you apply a cleaning agent and then immediately vacuum it or mop it from the surface, the cleaner may not have sufficient time to work.
- Make sure the cleaning solution does not dry on the surface. This can be accomplished by cleaning small areas and making sure the entire process is complete before moving on to other areas.



SPILL CLEAN-UP GUIDELINES

Anything that spills and is left on a polished surface may penetrate or stain. Stain protectors can help remedy this. If a liquid sits, it may also etch the surface, especially if the liquid is alkaline, acidic or caustic. There are a number of products available to aid in remediating spills. Cleaners formulated for polished concrete such as Ameripolish Rejuvenating Cleaner or Crete Cleaner can remove dirt, grease and other contaminants and return floors to a shiny finish. They also help retain color and prevent damage by working with stain protectors. Diamashine Maintenance pads can be used to remove scratches and stains and leave a clean surface. They vary in grit sizes, so the condition of the floor determines which pad is used. Floors that have been neglected can often be brought back to their original luster using RestoreX or Diamashine pads. The number of steps and passes needed to restore a floor can vary depending on the condition of the individual floor.

- **Acidic Food e.g. cola, milk, pickles, mustard, etc:**
Immediately clean with fresh water or Ameripolish Rejuvenating cleaner or Crete Cleaner.
Acids will etch if not removed quickly.
- **Adhesives:**
Remove tape with a razor blade - be careful not to scratch the surface. Very light use of acetone or adhesive remover can help remove the residue.
- **Alkaline Stains e.g. laundry soap, ammonia, etc:**
Clean with Ameripolish Rejuvenating Cleaner or Crete Cleaner while still fresh to minimize most stains. Guard products such as Ameripolish 3DSPE may need to be reapplied.
- **Candy:**
Remove from the floor. Clean sticky residue with Ameripolish Rejuvenating Cleaner or Crete Cleaner.
- **Chocolate:**
Dilute Crete Cleaner 50:1 with light scrubbing to get rid of most stains.
- **De-Icing Salts:**
Autoscrub with Ameripolish Rejuvenating Cleaner or Crete Cleaner to remove the residue.
- **Grease, Oil, Brake Fluid, etc:**
Clean with Crete Cleaner 50:1 while still fresh to help prevent most stains. Pull out set-in stains with Ameripolish Oil Ingester. Deep set stains may take more than one application.
- **Gum:**
Remove quickly for best results. Scrape what you can off the surface. Remove residue with Crete Cleaner.
- **Heel Marks:**
Remove by rubbing with concrete cleaner e.g. Crete Cleaner.
- **Mildew:**
Remove with Ameripolish Rejuvenating Cleaner - ideal for biological staining.
- **Tire Marks:**
Scrub with Crete Cleaner or CitraKut II to remove most tire marks.
- **Water Spots:**
Burnishing gets rid of most water spots quickly. If needed, dilute Ameripolish SPE 1:1 with water and lightly mist the surface before burnishing to refresh the gloss.