

We believe that clean floors are important. Therefore, it is the intent of this document to provide information that will keep your LifeTiles® textile composite flooring looking its best.

A higher overall appearance level is best achieved by a scheduled approach to maintenance.

The maintenance of your LifeTiles textile composite flooring is not complicated. There are only two flooring maintenance categories: Routine and Restorative. Each category is dependent upon the other.

Maintaining of your LifeTiles is the key to protecting your investment and keeping your floor looking great now and for the future. For additional maintenance questions, please contact lifetiles@engineeredfloors.com

I. Routine Maintenance

A. Vacuuming or blowing

The most important component in any floor covering maintenance program is vacuuming for removal of particulate granular and silica soil particles. The manufacturer recommends upright vacuums with HEPA filtration and rotating brush bars: Hoover® WindTunnel®, Dyson®, Oreck, Windsor, Sanitaire or any other upright model with brush bar. We recommend a unit that has earned the CRI Seal of Approval. Slow overlapping passes with a proper vacuum used frequently removes dry gritty soil that accumulates, therefore preventing diminished aesthetic quality of the flooring. Also, soil accumulation is capable of abrading face fibers. Use of a high velocity blower is effective as an interim method of removing topical contamination.

Perform routine maintenance on an as needed basis.

B. Spot removal

Thoroughly vacuum all loose soil. Next, for general or light spot removal, use a commercial carpet / fabric cleaner (Whittaker Crystal Dry®, Spot Shot®, Whittaker Oil and Grease Spot Remover, Chem-Dry or any spotter which has earned the CRI Seal of Approval). Use a white terry towel, microfiber cloth or soft bristle brush, agitate, blot and

rinse by using water and damp towel or “mini” extractor (US Products Triple Play Spotter or Bissell SpotBot) to thoroughly rinse.

Note: Should there be a situation that involves damage to the tile(s) such as frequent oil leakage onto the garage floor, we recommend the use of protection such as a rubber mat over LifeTiles. Should LifeTiles become contaminated due to frequent introduction of oil or any other cause, replacing of the affected area is simple. First remove the tile(s) by simply pulling them up. We recommend that attic stock be ordered, and therefore left with the consumer. Using attic stock, first remove the protective film from the back side of the tile. Pay attention to the tile’s arrow direction. Then reposition the new tile in the same space and configuration that the damaged one was removed from. No floor prep is required.

NOTE: DO NOT USE DRY COMPOUND CHEMISTRY WITH LIFETILES.

C. Stain Removal

Should a spot persist after proper application of previously referenced spotters used as directed, then professional grade specialty spotters may be required. For removal of: paint, oil, adhesive or grease stain, use a volatile solvent spotter such as Spot Shot, Oops® or Goof Off™. **DO NOT POUR THESE CLEANING AGENTS DIRECTLY ONTO THE LIFETILES**, instead pour them onto a clean white terry towel or microfiber cloth, then agitate onto the LifeTiles. Finally, follow spot cleaning process above in order to remove residue.

D. Biological Contaminants

- Remove (scrape, blot) any excess soiling material. Apply CRI approved spotter with a brush then extract with a portable extractor (US Products Triple Play Spotter, Bissell SpotBot).
- Ideally, spots and stains should be removed immediately. Some food dyes, oil and liquids left on LifeTiles are capable of producing permanent stains. Without fail, all spots, spills, gums and stains must be removed frequently.
- Pretest all cleaning agents using a scrap piece of LifeTiles or in an inconspicuous area. Allow the test area to dry. If there is any color change, do not

continue. Pretest until a safe and effective cleaning agent is obtained.

- Liquid spills ---- blot thoroughly with white terry towel or or microfiber cloth, or use a “mini” extractor to remove spills. Wicking action may cause soaked or untreated spills to recur during routine extraction cleaning.
- Dry stains ---- Some dry stains/solids require scraping to break them loose, using a plastic tool that will not damage the face. Next vacuum the loosened solids to remove them. Moisten the area with a pre-tested spotter. Gently agitate the area using a clean white terry towel or microfiber cloth. Repeat these steps until the spot is removed.

To Sanitize LifeTiles: Test for colorfastness in an inconspicuous area. LifeTiles should be free of excessive soil before applying. Use diluted or full strength as instructed by sanitizer. Apply at a rate of 2.5 oz per square foot. Sanitizer MUST come into contact with contaminant to work. Allow to dwell for 10 minutes. Do not rinse! LifeTiles can air dry or fans may be used if floor needs to dry faster.

Recommended Sanitizers: Sanitize with a 5% bleach and 95% water solution. Alternatives - Vital Oxide antimicrobial sanitizer or 3% hydrogen peroxide. Fully extract once the LifeTiles is sanitized.

E. Scuff Marks

Scuff marks are not uncommon and may appear on LifeTiles as with any floor covering. These can be caused from grease, oil, mud, dirt, shoe polish, dragging of heavy objects, or friction from rubber soled shoes. The scuff marks may appear as dark brown or gray marks requiring either the spot cleaning process as previously described or cleaning solvents to effectively remove. Brushing the area using a soft bristle hand brush will generally remove the marks.

The final part of a maintenance system is deep cleaning using hot water extraction (HWE). This method of deep cleaning equipment may be either truck mounted or portable. Brands are Bane Clene, Tenant, US Products or any machine which has earned the CRI Seal of Approval. Begin the preparation process by first thoroughly vacuuming, followed by an application of an extraction pre-spray, allow for specified dwell time; extract. For heavy soiling, agitate applied pre-spray onto the LifeTiles prior to wet extraction. Since LifeTiles is normally non-commercial applications, we recommend seeking out a local professional resource for this type of maintenance.

- Air movers will greatly reduce dry times
- HVAC should be in constant operation.

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Resource List

- Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) Referral System for Certified Firms, 800.835.4624, www.iicrc.org
- Vacuum Cleaners, Spot Cleaners and Cleaning Systems that are laboratory tested and approved by the Carpet and Rug Institute’s Seal of Approval, www.carpet-rug.org.

Hot water extraction equipment		
Bane Clene® Systems	800.428.9512	www.baneclene.com
Chem-Dry Carpet Cleaning	800.243.6379	www.chemdry.com

Low moisture extraction equipment and chemistry		
R.E. Whittaker Company	800.422.7686	www.whittakersystem.com

II. Restorative Maintenance