Cleaning & Maintenance

2022 Guide for SteriFloor Products

ALLIED FINISHES

General
Floor Care

Typically, being mindful of what the floor can and can't tolerate, having a consistent cleaning regime, and using appropriate equipment and chemicals to clean the floor is all it requires to maintain your floor. Accidents do happen from time to time, and occasionally the floor will need to be repaired. But caring for your floor, and understanding it's importance in providing a safe, sealed surface, is essential to ensuring it will last for many years.

What can my floor tolerate?

It is important to understand that epoxy flooring and polyurethane cement solutions handle stresses differently. In our suite of solutions, we have four polyurethane cement systems, and two epoxy solutions. To understand which chemicals and acids your floor can tolerate, check out the comparison table on the following page.

To understand how each solution compares in terms of abrasion, durability, basic chemical and acid resistance, check out the table below:

System	Durability	Chemical Resistance	Abrasion Resistance	Suitable Areas
SteriFloor Schützend	●●	●●	●●	Warehouses, Food Packing Areas
SteriFloor Stärke	●●●	●●●	●●●	Wet & Dry Production Areas, Coolrooms, Freezers
SteriFloor Beschützen	●●●	●●●	●●	Food Processing Areas, Heavy Traffic Areas
SteriFloor Schnell	●●	●●	●●	Processing Areas, Warehouses, Packing Halls
SteriFloor Keimfrei	●●●	●●●	●●	Clean Rooms, Laboratories
SteriFloor Sauber	●●●	●●●	●●	Commercial Bakeries, Flour Mills

Please note the above table is only a guide, and should only be used as a basic reference point.

Chemical	Schützend	Stärke	Beschützen	Keimfrei	Schnell	Sauber
Acetic acid 5%	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Acetic acid 10%	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Acetic acid 20%	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Fair
Butyric acid 10%	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Fair	Excellent	Fair
Citric acid 50%	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Lactic acid 15%	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Fair	Excellent	Fair
Oleic acid	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Mineral Acids	Schützend	Stärke	Beschützen	Keimfrei	Schnell	Sauber
Concentrated hydrochloric	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Fair
Nitric acid 5%	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Nitric acid 20%	Good	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Fair
Nitric acid 35%	NR*	Fair	Fair	NR*	Fair	NR*
Phosphoric acid 15%	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Phosphoric acid 35%	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Phosphoric acid conc.	Fair	Fair	Fair	NR*	Fair	NR*

Fats, Oils & Solvents	Schützend	Stärke	Beschützen	Keimfrei	Schnell	Sauber
Animal fats	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Ethyl alcohol	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Kerosene	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Lubricating oils	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Aromatic & ketone solvents	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good	Fair	Good
Petrol unleaded	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Skydrol	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Vegetable Oils	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good

Water-based Chemicals	Schützend	Stärke	Beschützen	Keimfrei	Schnell	Sauber
Ammonium hydroxide 20%	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Ferric chloride 10%	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Salt solutions 10%	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Sodium hyperchloride 16%	Good	Good	Good	NR*	Good	NR*
Sodium hydroxide 20%	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good

*NR = Not Recommended

Advised
Cleaning Procedure

It is important to understand that different areas have different cleaning requirements – whether it be a large open floor area, or a small space with tight corners, or a mixture of both.

Suggested cleaning procedure:

1. Remove all loose dust and debris using equipment appropriate for the area (sweep, suction cleaner etc.)

2. Carefully scrape off any compacted dirt, grease, sticky labels etc. Take care when using a scraper on any resin floors, as the surface could be damaged.

3. Mix and apply a detergent solution to the area using suitable mopping equipment. Allow a few minutes for the detergent to break down grease/other liquids, keeping the floor wet the entire time.

4. Machine scrub using a rotary machine with a suitable floor pad (for textured surfaces) or wash down with hot water. Complete a cleaning trial first prior to commencing with the entire area. On heavy soiled areas, or for best results, wash down in two directions (North/South, followed by East/West). Clean the edges and corners with an edging tool and appropriate pad. High pressure water cleaning can be used but myst be trialled first as some cleaners with very high PSI can damage the floor.

5. Slurry to be picked up using a wet pick up machine.

6. Rinse the area thoroughly with fresh water.

7. Allow the whole floor to dry before putting the area in use.

For effective cleaning the following factors should be considered:

- Water temperature: Warm to hot water is recommended, 54°C to 60°C. Heated water will help remove grease or fat but the temperature should not be so hot that it bakes food residue onto the surface. It is also important to note that cold water is recommended for freezers and coolrooms, to reduce the risk of thermal shock.

- Cleaning solution: Guided by the chemical and acid resistance chart, start with the weakest chemicals, and work up from there to remove residue on the floor.

Activities
to Avoid

In order to maximise the lifetime of your floor, we have set out the below activities to be avoided.

1. Dragging sharp edged metal objects across the floor will abrade the surface.

2. Constantly dropping heavy objects in a particular area, for example meat hooks, will damage the floor.

3. Large volumes of high pressure heated water will lead to surface degradation, unless the flooring solution has been designed to stand up to this.

4. Large volumes of highly concentrated acids will degrade the surface over time.

5. Long term chemical surface contamination from chemical build-up will lead to marking of the floor, and possible corrosion of the surface, depending on the flooring solution.

It is important to note that each flooring solution is different, and will wear and mark differently depending on it's make up.

Please inform our consultants of any activities that occur on the floor prior to the consultant suggesting a solution. This will ensure they provide you with the ideal flooring solution for your need.

Additional
Advice & Tips

1. If you're concerned that the cleaning chemicals may be too strong for the floor, try it on a small patch away from main production lines. Monitor over a 24 hour period. Alternatively, contact our team first with the details of your cleaning chemicals, and we'll let you know if it's ok to use.

2. Heavily trafficked areas need more attention – consider giving a higher frequency of maintenance to these areas.

3. Ensure that cleaning and maintenance levels are higher in areas subject to accidental contamination by chemicals or bacteriological or radioactive materials.

4. Use the best quality equipment available to you, and ensure that cleaning equipment is regularly cleaned.

5. Using colour-coded cleaning equipment is an excellent way to ensure there is no cross-contamination between rooms.

6. If your floor fails due to incorrect chemicals being used, get in touch with our team as soon as possible so we can rectify the issue before it gets any worse.

Repairs

Should your floor fail in any way, please get in contact with our team immediately. If you're not happy with your floor, neither are we. So reach out to us, and where practical, we will come and inspect the floor or have you send us a video or pictures, and we will then make the necessary arrangements for one of our teams to effect the repair.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback concerning your flooring installation, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our contact details are on the following page.

Get in touch.

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