

## Maintenance Recommendations

### Difficult Cleaning Challenges for Mannington Rubber

Mannington Premium Rubber Flooring's Thermoset Vulcanized rubber compound is very dense and has a level of surface finish integrity. This, combined with our built in migrating wax feature results in a high level of stain resistance to most chemicals and compounds.

However, there are certain cases where some temporary staining may occur ... especially during the first 30 day "break in" period. As the rubber flooring is properly maintained and matures, it develops a surface that becomes easier and easier to maintain. It also becomes more stain resistant.

In cases where temporary staining occurs, there are a number of procedures that can help. This document addresses spot cleaning, gum removal, tar stain removal, black heel and scuffmark removal and stain removal from unknown sources.

Spot Cleaning Various Stains: Food products including soda, coffee, red wine, acidic fruits and other products may cause temporary staining. Other products including tempera paint, India ink and betadine can cause stains.

To address these types of localized stains, spray-mist the stains with a gentle glass cleaner, such as Windex™ or a general cleaner such as Simple Green™. Let the cleaners stay on the stain for about 5 minutes but do not let the solution dry. Gently scrub with a nylon or natural fiber brush and rinse. When dry, buff the area with a soft dry towel to help restore luster.

If the stain is not removed, or a shadow of the stain remains, use SofScrub™. Apply SofScrub directly to the area with a soft cotton towel. Scrub and wait five minutes before rinsing. A second application of SofScrub may be necessary. When dry, buff the area with a soft dry towel to help restore luster. It is normal that the area may appear dull for a while. The migrating wax will gradually return to the surface and even out the rubber flooring's natural luster.

To remove gum: For small areas, apply a gum remover, such as Dissolve-It™ by Castex or a good quality citrus based cleaner. After the gum has softened, remove it with a wood or plastic spatula. Wipe clean with an absorbent cloth. Some temporary dulling may result. Mannington's built-in waxes will reemerge within 30 days. Buff the dulled area to match the surrounding area's luster.

For larger areas, or areas with heavy chewing gum accumulation, use a hot water high-pressure washer, then vacuum up the excess solution.

Black heel marks and other scuffs: Such marks can normally be removed with normal maintenance procedures. However “grunge boots,” inexpensive black soled sneakers and shoes can leave scuffs that are more difficult to remove. Two approaches should be considered.

First, many scuffs can be removed with a tennis ball cover affixed to the end of a broom pole. Just the little amount of friction will remove the scuff and no cleaner is necessary. Here is how to do it:

Cut a 1-inch-long "X" into a tennis ball with a utility knife. Push the end of the broom into the "X" so the tennis ball covers the top of the broom handle. Turn the broom upside down so the tennis ball is on the floor. Rub the scuffmarks with the tennis ball, pushing the ball cover over the scuffs with the broomstick. The soft, fuzzy tennis ball can erase the scuffmarks easily from many flooring surfaces.



Second, more difficult scuffs can be removed with a direct application of SofScrub or with mineral spirits. The scuff should be easily removed, but may leave the cleaned surface temporarily dull. However, Mannington’s built-in migrating waxes will reemerge within 30 days and even out the surface luster. As the floor surface continues to mature, it will become easier to maintain and far less susceptible to black heel marks and scuffs.

Tar: is particularly harmful to all rubber tile. It will permanently stain or yellow the affected area if not removed quickly. Use a soft, absorbent towel dampened with mineral spirits. Some temporary dulling may result.

Rest Room Applications: Undiluted toilet bowl cleaner may bleach-out some Mannington Rubber Flooring colors. Before approving any such disinfectant cleaner, test the cleaner on an inconspicuous area of the tile and let the solutions sit overnight. If staining occurs, try another cleaner. Light stains can be removed with Soft Scrub or a very slightly abrasive cleaner. Work slowly.

Difficult Stains from Unknown Sources: In some cases, staining may occur that is from an unknown source. If there is no information on the staining agent, a “trial and error” approach may be necessary.

Start by cleaning with neutral pH detergents. Try mild dilution ratios and work up to full strength direct applications. Be sure to leave the cleaners on the affected area for five minutes or more before rinsing.

If removal with a regular cleaning agent failed, try using an undiluted alkaline basic cleaning agent. The cleaner’s alkalinity level must not exceed a pH value of 12. The result can be improved by using a red cleaning pad.

In very rare cases, an even more aggressive approach may be tried. Stain removal by using an acid-based cleaning agent or a sanitary cleaner may be an option. Note: Only phosphoric acid-based sanitary cleaners can be used. A floor cleaning cloth should be wetted with the cleaning agent and placed over the stain for up to 30 minutes. Remove the cloth, scrub lightly and rinse.

**Note:** Undiluted cleaning agent should only be applied directly to the stained areas and not be used for the general cleaning of the larger areas of the floor.

**Note:** All precautionary statements associated with any of the cleaners, detergents or chemicals used to address stain removal must be known in advance. Keep out of reach of children. Read label before use. If medical advice is needed have product container or label at hand.