

# **SHEET VINYL AND LVT CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDANCE**



# CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Appropriate maintenance procedures will help preserve the appearance and extend the life of Furlong Flooring sheet vinyl and LVT floors. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the amount and type of traffic, the degree of soiling and the floor colour and type. Some Furlong Flooring sheet vinyl and LVT floors have a PU protective coating on top of the resistance wear layer. The PU protective coating provides a closed film, which keeps out dirt and moisture, and largely prevents them from accumulating. For this reason, the floor can be cleaned thoroughly, easily and quickly in most cases, without using aggressive cleaning products or complicated methods.

We do NOT recommend using steam or wet mops on this floor, which will void the manufacturer's warranty

## Maintaining your floor

Appropriate maintenance procedures will help to preserve the appearance and will extend the life of a Furlong Flooring heterogeneous vinyl floor. The frequency of maintenance will depend on the amount and type of traffic, degree of soiling, the floor colour and type.

Below we will give a short summary of the 5 key points to effective maintenance.



### 1. Preventative measures

- Keeping dirt off the floor is easier and less expensive than removing it.
- Proper entrance walk-off material is able to remove large amounts of dry soil as well as absorb water or oil-based moisture.



- Use furniture caps or other protection under heavy items or appliances to prevent indentation.
- Avoid rubber or latex backed mats, furniture feet and the like as the rubber or latex may leave permanent stains.
- Almost all flooring will vary in colour over time when exposed to UV light. Avoid this by using curtains or sunscreens when the sun is very bright.
- Mechanical damage of the floor covering, caused by heavy overloading or sliding of furniture/items and permanent stains caused by rubber/latex are not covered by the product warranty.

### 2. Vacuuming

Regular vacuuming is the most important part of a successful maintenance program to remove all grit, debris and other solid particles. Vacuuming is far more effective for this type of soiling than wet mopping, which normally moves soiling from one place to another, rather than removing

- Prevention also means making the right choice of floorcovering and design/colour for the right area, e.g. avoid too dark or too light colours for high traffic areas near the entrance of a commercial building.
- Protect against scratching from furniture feet by using wide, free-moving, castors, glides, rollers or pads, e.g. [www.scratchnomore.nl](http://www.scratchnomore.nl). NOTE: felt protection pads can pick up dirt and grit and subsequently cause scratching or further damage to the floor covering.



### 3. Spill and spot cleaning

Spills and spots are inevitable, but they don't have to be permanent. Take action immediately, don't delay cleaning spills and spots until your regular scheduled cleaning. The best time to treat a spill or spot is when you first see it. First try to blot the spill with a dry cloth/kitchen towel, then use water. Only use detergents/ cleaning products when the above is not sufficient to remove the spill/stain. Use neutral Ph detergents, e.g. from the product range of [www.james.eu](http://www.james.eu). Remove excess detergent with a towel or cloth soaked plain water.

Please note to always use products that are pH neutral and avoid products with chlorine or chemically aggressive oxidants. If in doubt, we recommend pre-testing a discreet area for colour fastness and material durability.

Do not use ordinary washing-up liquid as this can leave a (sometimes sticky, sometimes slippery) residue.



For heavier cleaning, e.g. to remove oil/grease/surface dirt in kitchen area/entrance ways, wet mopping with detergent may be required, e.g. products from [www.james.eu](http://www.james.eu). In this instance always use the so-called "two bucket" method, which is one bucket with water and detergent and one bucket with clean water for rinsing.



- A common error is to use excess detergent, which then leaves a film on the surface. In this instance, clean the floor a few times without any detergent to remove the excess soap/detergent, this would bring you back to a standard condition. Care should be taken to dilute detergents in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.
- For larger (commercial) areas, a professional cleaning machine with rotating brushes and vacuum extraction can be used.

### 4. Periodic cleaning

- Inspect and assess the appearance of the floor. Seasonality may also alter the maintenance requirements.
- Vacuum to remove all grit, debris and other solid particles.
- For light cleaning, a damp mop may be sufficient. Do not use cleaning products when not required.



### 5. Deep cleaning

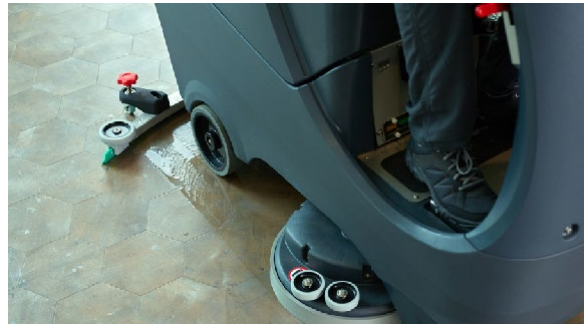
- Periodic cleaning is far more beneficial to the floor covering than infrequent heavy or deep cleaning. However, seasonality can influence the amount of cleaning required.
- Remove surface dust and grit by vacuuming.



Once dust and debris free, with a spray, apply a solution of neutral pH cleaner to the section to be cleaned (or dependent upon the level of soiling, a light alkaline cleaner), carefully diluted to the manufacturer's instructions. Leave for enough time to react with and lift the soiling. Some agitation with a soft brush may be required.



Pick up the solution with a clean "microfibre" mop, using a continuous and steady side-to-side motion. When the mop head becomes loaded, it will leave residues and start to streak the floor. At this point the dirty mop head should be removed, wrung out, placed into a suitable bag and a clean mop head fitted. The cycle should then be repeated until the whole floor is completed, is clean and streak-free. Do not move dirty water from one place to another, extraction cleaning may be required.



- The dirty mop heads should then be machine washed and dried ready for reuse.
- Heavy soiling and soiling in the grain, may require a "scrubber dryer" with immediate wet vacuum extraction prior to mopping.



**CAUTION:**

Care should be taken in the amount of cleaning solution being applied. Unwanted consequences of excessive cleaning solutions on sheet vinyl and LVT can be but are not limited to: mould growth under the flooring, bad smell, loss of adhesion, and decomposition of the adhesive.



Important part from the warranty:

- Almost all flooring will vary in colour over time when exposed to UV light. Avoid this by using curtains or blinds when the sun is very bright. PVC also has a tendency to yellow in the dark. The combined effect can cause covered areas (under furniture, under permanently closed doors, etc.) to differ in colour compared to non-covered areas. This is a characteristic of all PVC floorcoverings and is excluded in our warranty conditions.
- Avoid rubber or latex backed mats as they may leave stains. Rubber and latex castors or protection caps under furniture must not be used (we advise the use of castors type 'W' in accordance with EN 12529).
- In case of loose lay sheet vinyl installation, damage of the vinyl flooring caused by heavy overload, rolling loads or sliding activities is excluded in our warranty conditions.
- Do not allow cigarettes, matches and other very hot items to contact the floor as this causes permanent damage.
- Important: Cleaning or maintenance may only take place if the floor is correctly installed and there are no visible imperfections.
- Contact your representative / supplier for the complete warranty conditions.
- This document was issued on (see at the end of this document) and supersedes all previous versions, at the same time it is superseded as soon as a new version is published. For the latest version please always check [www.furlongflooring.com](http://www.furlongflooring.com).
- In case of conflict between these installation instructions and the local technical standards/legislation, the most stringent of the two prevails.