CLEANING & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Introduction:

In general, epoxy flooring systems are specified due to their aesthetics and ability to protect the substrate. On top of their high chemical resistance and heavy duty protection, epoxy floors are also an excellent choice because they provide a cleanable and sanigenic surface. Using the Plexi-Chemie product line will deliver a strong, durable, easy-to-maintain, and slip resistant floor. However, the floor must be maintained and cleaned regularly, depending on your environment, to ensure longevity of the floor, and to protect against damage and build-up of bacteria.

This guide will address how to properly clean a Plexi-Chemie floor and how to repair the floor due to cracks, scratches and impact damages. This guide will also address how to clean and maintain Plexi-Chemie wall systems.

Epoxy and Urethane Flooring Systems

Care and Maintenance Prior to Installation:

Before the Plexi-Chemie epoxy flooring system is installed, the substrate should be properly sloped-to-drains and trenches, and areas prone to puddling should be leveled. Failure to properly slope and level the substrate prior to installing the Plexi-Chemie flooring system can have a negative effect on drainage and ease-of-cleaning once the system is installed.

Care and Maintenance Immediately After Installation:

Immediately after installation of the epoxy floor, the flooring system must be fully cured before accepting foot traffic. It is recommended to wait 48-72 hours for complete cure before opening the floor to foot traffic. Generally, the floor can welcome light foot traffic in 24 hours, and forklift and heavy equipment traffic in 7 days. DO NOT wash the floor with water until the floor is completely cured. This will be a minimum of 48-72 hours.

Regular Care and Maintenance After Installation:

Foreign objects should be removed and kept off of the floor as often as possible. When objects are left on the floor for long periods of times, they could leave wear marks in that specific area.

Usually, dirt that can come out of the surface of the floor can be easily cleaned with the sweep of a broom or soft mop. A vacuum can be used if needed.

If chemicals have spilled on the epoxy floor, and the spill has been sitting for an extended period of time, the cleaning process may require some additional steps/help, outlined later in this guide.

If needed, washing the floor with water and squeegee drying it or using a wet mop with clean water are also acceptable ways of cleaning the floor regularly.

Recommended Cleaning Methods:

To Remove Dirt: Use a hand broom with bristle brushes or soft bristle brush attachments. Do not use aggressive nylon pads or stiff bristle brushes because these may scratch and fill the surface of the epoxy floor. A vacuum can also be used if needed.

To Remove Chemical Spills: Neutralize the chemical spill immediately as necessary and clean up as soon as possible. Chemical concentration, chemical combinations, temperature and duration of time that an epoxy floor is exposed to a harmful chemical substance will affect the overall performance and appearance of the epoxy flooring system.

Using Cleaning Solutions/Products:

Cleaning solutions/products can be used regularly to keep the floor clean and disinfected at the same time. We recommend the following everyday cleaning products to use on an epoxy floor:

- Everyday dishwashing liquid is the best thing to clean your epoxy floor. Mix 1/3 cup with 4 to 5 liters of water and mop the floor.

Keep in mind that cleaning agents can affect the color, gloss and texture of an epoxy floor. As a precaution, we recommend testing the cleaning agent on a small area of the floor prior to using it on the entire area.

Precautions For Using Disinfectants:

Using disinfectants, such as alcohol or chlorine, may affect the color, gloss, and/or texture of the epoxy floor. We recommend testing a small area with the desired disinfectant before using it to clean the entire floor.

Hot Water Cleaning:

Use hot water not exceeding 140°F to clean the epoxy floor. Use hot water not exceeding 140°-160°F for urethane mortar floors and walls. Avoid puddling when cleaning with water. Equipment used, such as nozzles and hoses should constantly be moving and should not be allowed to sit on one place on the floor.

Waxing & Sealing Epoxy Floors:

Waxes and sealers can be used on the finished epoxy floor to provide a high luster to the floor. Only a thin coat is recommended. Strip old coats of wax and sealers and re-coat as needed. Do not use coarse grit or sanding-type devices to remove old wax and sealer build-up. This could damage the floor.

Cleaning Slip Resistant/Rough Textured Floors:

Epoxy floors either have a smooth or rough surface finish. Rough textured finishes are ideal for industries that require high slip resistance. Textured surfaces will be more extensive to clean than smooth finished surfaces. For rough-textured surfaces, a bristle-type cleaning brush should be used to ensure all areas of the floor are properly cleaned and disinfected.

Recommended Maintenance Methods:

To Repair Impact Damages on Floor: Epoxy flooring systems are complex and often customized to the industry and owners preference. We advise that a professional flooring contractor is contacted to properly repair a damaged floor. A certified Plexi-Chemie contractor can be located in your area by calling Plexi-Chemie's office at 904-693-8800.

If you do choose to repair the floor damages yourself, it is important to act quickly to retain the integrity and performance of the floor. Not acting quickly could cause a build-up of water or chemicals in the damaged area(s).

To Repair Scratch or Scoring Damages on Floor: Tend to scratching or scoring damages as soon as possible. If these damages are left for too long, the damages could fill with water, grime, or chemicals that will be very difficult to remove later on. To repair scratches or scoring, first clean the surface with a cleaner as approved by Plexi-Chemie's Technical Department. Next, depending on the severity of the damage, sand or grind the affected area and use the specified patch material specified for repair.

Epoxy Wall Systems

Care and Maintenance Prior to Installation:

Walls must be structurally sound, clean, and free of mold, greases and other contaminants. Depending on the sub-surface on the wall, surface prep is imperative for the success of bonding for the wall system. Please contact Plexi-Chemie's Technical Department for surface preparation recommendations based on your application.

Care and Maintenance Immediately After Installation:

The cure time for Plexi-Chemie's wall systems is a minimum of 24-48 hours. The wall must not be subjected to excessive hot water and/or abusive cleaners, such as bleach or solvents, until the wall system is completely cured.

Regular Care and Maintenance After Installation:

To Remove Dirt: We recommend using warm water and a mild detergent to clean dirt off of the walls. A detergent such as Simple Green® is recommended. Use either a sponge or scrubber to clean the surface. This process will not damage the integrity of the coating and will clean the wall thoroughly.

Do not use harmful cleaners, such as bleach. These types of cleaners are oxidizing agents that if used, might stain the wall system.

To Remove Chemicals: Plexi-Chemie's wall systems are specifically designed to resist many types of chemicals. This means that when certain chemicals are spilled on the wall, the wall system will make for an easily cleanable surface that can be cleaned using the above recommendations for removing dirt from walls.

If you implement a regular care program and follow these guidelines, the appearance and life of your floor and/or wall will be greatly extended. For additional questions on cleaning and maintaining your Plexi-Chemie epoxy floor, please call us at (904) 693-8800.

606-6 Lane Avenue North Jacksonville, FL 32254
Office (904) 693-8800 Fax (904) 693-8700 www.plexi-chemie.com