



20. Maintenance & Protection

The initial clean of Altro High Performance floor covering is essential. A poor initial clean will make routine maintenance more difficult.

Cleaning and maintenance practices will ultimately determine the general appearance and functional benefits offered by the entire range of Altro floor covering. The following procedures will help to keep Altro floor covering looking good and functioning correctly at a reasonable cost.

[Refer to the Altro Cleaning & Maintenance Guide available online at \[www.altrofloors.com\]\(http://www.altrofloors.com\) or by contacting your Altro distributor.](#)

20.1 Altro Floor Covering

To clean large areas by machine:

1. Vacuum thoroughly to remove dust and debris.
2. Apply recommended alkaline cleaning agent in correct dilution and machine scrub with standard speed machine fitted with a medium synthetic pad or brush made from nylon or polypropylene. In greasy or heavily soiled areas, the solution should be left on the floor for a few minutes before scrubbing.
3. Wet vacuum residue. Alternatively, use scrubbing machine with wet recovery.
4. Altro recommends rinsing to remove all the cleaning solution residue.



To clean small areas by hand:

1. Mop, sweep or vacuum thoroughly to remove all dust and debris.
2. Apply recommended alkaline cleaning agent in correct dilution and leave for several minutes to emulsify the surface soil. Do not let cleaning agents dry.
3. Scrub with deck scrubbing brush or a medium nylon scrubbing pad.
4. Wet vacuum or mop up residue using twin compartment bucket and wringer.
5. Rinse using clean mop and clean water or a neutralizing rinse.
6. Wet vacuum or mop and allow to dry.



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Stains & Marks

The nature of unsealed safety flooring means that it may be prone to scuffing or marking. However, the flooring is very tough and can easily withstand the most abrasive pads.

Stubborn scuff marks should be spot cleaned using a machine fitted with a medium synthetic pad and strong alkaline detergent solution.

Alternatively, clean by hand using a non-abrasive scouring powder and rinse well.

Altro floor covering has good resistance to chemicals and spillage. However in some cases, long term contact with certain chemicals such as asphalt-type products or anti-oxidants in certain types of rubber used in mats, cart wheels and tires, can cause permanent staining problems to Altro floor covering and other vinyl floorings. Altro floor covering should be protected from excessive spillages of keytones or other solvents harmful to vinyl.

20.2 Special Grades

Certain grades of Altro safety flooring do require the use of different techniques or cleaning agents:

Altro Marine 20

Do not use pads when machine scrubbing Altro Marine 20 - use nylon or polypropylene brushes instead to ensure the textured surface is thoroughly cleaned.

In showers, swimming pools or whirlpools where the temperature and humidity are high, a sandwich effect of hard lime deposits and dirt can be created as the surface water dries and residue begins to build up. If this happens, it is useful to apply an acid-based cleaning agent in correct dilution on a monthly basis.

Altro Stronghold 30

Alkaline cleaning agents can sometimes leave a white bloom on the textured surface of Altro Stronghold 30. To avoid this, use a neutralizing (i.e. slightly acidic) rinse or even clean water containing one teaspoon of vinegar to 1.5 gallons (5 liters) of water.



Altro Walkway 20SD

Excessive cleaning or the use of floor finishes and sealers can adversely affect the electrical properties of the floor. Also, some cleaning agents can leave a film and are unsuitable for use with static dissipative floors – check with the manufacturer of the cleaning agent before use.

20.3 Sealing Altro Floor Covering

In areas where maximum slip resistance is not essential, maintenance costs can be reduced by treating safety floors with an acrylic floor finish or equivalent. However, never use a floor finish or sealer in critical areas such as kitchens, wet areas or showers.

Varying coats of floor finish can be applied according to the finish required and the proposed method of maintenance. For example, apply two coats of acrylic floor finish and spray buff with a maintainer chemical using a high speed machine fitted with fine buffing pads. This will give a sheen to the floor and make it easier to maintain.



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Although this reduces slip resistance by around 30%, the floor will still be more slip resistant than smooth vinyl. Once sealed, the floor can be maintained using a neutral cleaning agent/maintainer which contains a wax and so should never be used on unsealed safety flooring. The floor will then require periodic stripping and resealing, as do other sealed floors such as rubber, linoleum or smooth vinyl.

Such maintenance will reduce slip resistance in the areas concerned and it is the responsibility of the building owner to assess the appropriate level of slip resistance in all areas.

20.4 Recommended Maintenance Products

Some types of cleaning agent should not be used on vinyl, such as pine oil cleaning agents and quaternary cleaners which can cause the floor to stain or become brittle and shrink. Also, some cleaning agents used for their antiseptic properties in operating rooms, showers, jacuzzis, swimming pool decks and footbaths can have a lubricating effect, resulting in most flooring materials becoming more slippery when wet, even when used in concentrations below 3%.

The use of products not recommended by Altro can void Altro Limited Product Warranties.

[Refer to Section 22 for distributor list of Altro recommended cleaning agents.](#)

20.5 Protection

Cover and protect the newly installed Altro floor covering from damage from other trades during construction. To avoid discoloration or staining of the floor by printing ink, oil or bitumen found in some coverings, Altro recommends a non-staining, temporary floor protection system, such as a reusable textured plastic sheeting.

Protect Altro floor covering from outside dirt and dust. A suitable dirt excluder outside all entrances and a non-staining mat inside can protect the flooring. Any asphalt carried in on shoes may stain or yellow vinyl. Clean all mats regularly to maintain their effectiveness.

NOTE: The initial clean of Altro floor covering is essential. A poor initial cleaning will make routine maintenance more difficult.

21. For More Information

For additional information about the specification, installation and maintenance of Altro High Performance products, the following literature is available.

ALTRO SAFETY FLOORING

- Altro Product Catalog
- Altro Cleaning & Maintenance Guide
- Altro Technical Data Sheets (Diagrams)
- Altro Specification
- Altro Safety Flooring Sample Cards
- Altro Limited Product Warranty
- Altro Weldrod and AltroMastic 100 Color Guide

OTHER ALTRO PRODUCTS

- Altro Prismatic Plus Multi-purpose Maintenance Card
- Altro Prismatic Plus Multi-purpose Sample Cards