

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR YOUR NEW FLOOR

One of the primary reasons for having a floor coating is the ease of maintenance. When using the right equipment and cleaners, you will maintain a clean and glossy surface for many years.

These cleaning and maintenance tips apply to all InduraFloor finished floor systems.

Though easy to maintain, there are some products you will want to avoid using. Some cleaning solvents can leave a hazy film on the surface and attract dirt and may get slippery when it gets wet. There are even some cleaners that may cause your floor to de-gloss, lose its shine and cause the surface to fade.



And, as resilient as garage floors coatings are to dirt and stains, they do require some routine cleaning maintenance to stay their best. If left unattended for long periods, some coatings can start to lose their gloss. This is due to the sanding effect that is caused by dirt and grime that gets caught up under shoes and tires. Once the gloss of a coating is gone, there is nothing you can do to bring it back short of applying a new top coat.



The first thing we suggest is getting yourself a quality 24" to 36" dust mop. Soft bristle push brooms work as well. You can find either at your local home improvement centers.

You will find that a dust mop or soft bristle push broom makes quick work of removing dust and loose dirt and will take care of the majority of your epoxy floor cleaning duties.

Since dust and most dirt will not stick to the floor, just use the dust mop once a week (or sooner if needed) to keep the floor clean. It only takes a few minutes, and you are done. Dust mops or brooms even work well for floors that have an anti-slip additive in the top coat.

For garage floor coatings with contraction joints or saw cuts in the floor: vacuum those out monthly or use a broom to sweep clean of debris.

Spot cleaning for spills or fluid leaks from cars is easily done. Wipe up with a paper towel, soft cloth, or a clean rag. A shot of Windex works wonders if the spill has left a film.

For epoxy garage floor coatings that see a lot of traffic and dirt, it's a good idea to give your floor a good wet cleaning once every 3 or 4 months. Of course, you can do it sooner if needed. Next are our chosen products that have a proven track record of getting the job done.

CLEANING PRODUCTS and METHODS

MOPS

Microfiber mops are the best choice for wet cleaning floor coatings. As with most floor mopping, frequent rinsing in the cleaning solution is the key to best results. What's nice about microfiber mops like the one shown here is that they often come with a microfiber dust mop pad for your routine cleaning maintenance. It's like getting two mops in one!



AMMONIA

The cleaning solution that works best for epoxy and other garage floor coatings (even those floors that have a salt film and residue) is ammonia. Use ½ cup of ammonia to one gallon of hot water in a bucket. Clear ammonia is available in 1-gallon jugs as a multipurpose cleaner on Amazon as well as at your local hardware store.

HOW TO USE: Apply the ammonia solution using the microfiber mop. Be sure to rinse the mop frequently in the cleaning solution to rid it of the debris it picks up. If you need a little bit more, *Windex* will provide additional grease-cutting power. Mix a ratio of 1 part *Windex* to 3 parts water. *Windex* does not leave a film on the coating and does a good job of removing residue. For spot cleaning any stubborn dirt that you encounter, a soft scrub pad can be used to gently scrub the area.

SIMPLE GREEN

If for some reason you have a cleaning disaster on your hands or are dealing with a worn floor where scratches are embedded with dirt, Simple Green is a product that will work wonders.

HOW TO USE: Start with a solution of 1 part concentrated Simple Green to 8 parts water. Use a deck brush to clean the surface. You can mix it stronger if necessary, however, keep in mind that Simple Green can leave a film on the coating. It's important to use a separate bucket with clean water with a mop to rinse the floor as you go. If possible, you can rinse clean with a hose and use a squeegee or clean push broom to push out any excess water. The floor should dry fairly quickly after that.



CLR Rust stains are easily tackled with CLR. You can get 'Calcium, Lime and Rust Remover' in various sizes at Home Depot, Amazon or your local hardware store.

HOW TO USE: We recommend using a 1:1 ratio of CLR and warm water. Apply directly to the rust spot using a soft scrub brush or soft scrub pad and then rinse with cold clean water. Do not let it sit for more than a minute or two on the surface.

WHAT NOT TO USE DO NOT USE citrus cleaners or vinegar or cleaners containing citrus or vinegar. These types of cleaners contain acids that over time will slowly de-gloss the finish of epoxy and other floor coatings. DO NOT USE soap as a cleaner UNLESS you follow up with a thorough clean water rinse. This extra rinse is why we do not recommend cleaning with soap. Soap residue may leave streak marks, may result in a hazy film and can cause the floor to get slippery when wet.

Cleaning an epoxy floor coating should be easy. With our cleaning tips and methods, you will be able to maintain a clean floor with ease and have a floor that will hold its gloss and fine finish for a lifetime.