Flotex Classic, HD, Sottsass & Classic Essentials Sheet

Karndean Designflooring

Cleaning and Maintenance Guide

Flotex material preparation

The content of an effective maintenance programme will depend on the area of use, level of foot traffic, and standard of cleanliness required (i.e. the needs of an office area will vary enormously from the needs of a nursing home). For further information and cleaning and maintenance advice contact your Karndean Designflooring Area Representative.

In entrances, or areas between dirty and clean zones (e.g. factory to offices), use a clean-off system to minimise soiling – try Coral Brush Activ from Karndean Designflooring.

Flotex should be vacuumed regularly as required, using a vacuum cleaner with a rotating brush i.e. upright or canister. Some suction machines can be adapted by adding a power head with a rotating brush – if in doubt refer to the vacuum supplier.

For best results remember "fast forward, slow back."

Flotex Clean-It & Flotex Fix-It

Flotex, unlike traditional carpets, only needs a very small amount of detergent to clean perfectly. Ordinary carpet detergents are very strong and leave residue behind on the Flotex non absorbent pile if not used correctly.

Flotex Clean-It is specially formulated not to leave any residual chemical behind and contains 20 times less chemical shampoo than a normal carpet detergent.

Flotex Clean-It also acts as an extreme wetting agent enabling the treated water to flush out soiling on Flotex's super dense pile faster and far more efficiently.

Flotex Fix-It is specially formulated to speedily neutralise and remove residual (traditional) detergents and chemicals due to faulty or incorrect cleaning. In such cases Flotex Fix-It acts as an excellent restorative cleaning agent.

Obtaining Flotex cleaning chemicals

Flotex Clean-It and Flotex Fix-It are available ex stock either in your local area or from your state capital city supplier. Whilst some cleaning chemical distributors will order these products in for you, to find your local outlet that holds stock, please contact Karndean Designflooring on (AUS) 1800 810 920 or (NZL) 0800 442 101.

Maintenance

In heavy traffic or hygiene critical areas, regular wet cleaning may be necessary. Other areas will require this kind of maintenance programme less frequently. A range of standard cleaning machines can be used on Flotex. To ensure effective cleaning use plenty of water (where appropriate) treated with Flotex Clean-It as instructed.

1. *Hot Water Extraction* - An effective and relatively quick cleaning method for light to medium soiling. Ideal where the pile does not need much agitation to remove dirt. The water in the solution tank should be treated with Flotex Clean-It as directed and used as an alternative to traditional carpet shampoos and detergents

2. *Cylindrical Cleaning Machines* - This is a relatively thorough and quick drying method of cleaning Flotex. Best results are achieved when used on a regular basis. The equipment is very light weight and ideally suited for operation under low furniture and beds, whilst applying very little water, which is then brushed into the Flotex pile by counter rotating brushes. The resultant dirty water is then returned back to the machine recovery tank. Water in the solution tank/s should be treated with Flotex Clean-It as directed and used as an alternative to traditional carpet shampoos and detergents.

3. *3 in 1 Machines* - A combination of hot water extraction and scrubbing eliminates the use of two separate machines. This method uses a cylindrical power brush (not rotary) and returns the resultant dirty water into the recovery tank with the aid of a powerful vacuum shoe. These types of machine are better for areas which require more vigorous agitation. Water in the solution tank/s should be treated with Flotex Clean-It as directed and used as an alternative to traditional carpet shampoos and detergents.

4. *Rotary Scrubbing* - This is the most effective and efficient method of deep cleaning Flotex. Points to note:

   - The water – treated with Flotex Clean-It as directed – should be dispensed from a bucket. The flow from the scrubbing machine tank is insufficient for Flotex cleaning
   - Flotex Clean-It should be used as directed instead of traditional carpet shampoos and detergents. If using this method to remove residual detergent and chemical residues, then use Flotex Fix-It instead
   - The pick-up head used on the wet vacuum should be of a type similar to the head on a hot water extraction machine
   - Good ventilation and/or the added use of a floor air-mover will reduce drying times considerably
   - Not suitable for use on Flotex Tiles

Restorative cleaning

When removing residual traditional detergent and chemicals from the pile, please note:

- Residual chemicals are the result of faulty or incorrect maintenance of Flotex and may cause re-soiling and/or odours to occur
- Use Flotex Fix-It as directed
- Use cleaning machinery with a rotary or cylindrical brush to agitate the Flotex Fix-It into the pile and suitably homogenise with the residual chemicals for complete extraction. Rinse thoroughly
- Once Flotex is restored with Flotex Fix-It there is no requirement to use Flotex Clean-It until the next scheduled wet-clean

Deodorants and disinfectants

Deodorants fall into two categories:

A. Those which mask the offensive odour
B. Those which neutralise the bacteria that produce the odour

Most of these types of chemical have the potential to leave behind sticky residues that can attract and hug old and new soiling onto the carpet pile. If it is necessary to disinfect the carpet, dilute phenolics – which must not exceed the recommended dilution – can be used. If there is an odour present in Flotex, then it is not clean and requires wet cleaning. First test if traditional detergent residues are present ('suds test') in order to decide if Flotex Clean-It or Flotex Fix-It is the correct cleaning product to use.

Do not use bleach; instead use chlorine-free hospital grade disinfectants.

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Flotex troubleshooting guide

Do the suds test first

1. Pour plain water onto the darkest mark
2. Scrub with a hard bristle brush. Check for soap suds
3. Push the suds to one side to reveal bright clean carpet

How to clean Flotex sheet

Do not Automatically Pre-Spray.
Firstly test for residual detergents (cause of 90% of complaints)

If **Positive Test:**	If **Negative Test:**
1. Remove chemical residues using Flotex Fix-It	1. Use Flotex Clean-It
2. Follow as for 'Negative Test' for the next scheduled wet clean	2. Vacuum with a motorised brush

Cleaning items (for spot cleaning)

Note: Where detergent has been used previously instead of Flotex Clean-It, always remove built-up residues first by using Flotex Fix-It as directed.

A Flotex Clean-It undiluted and thoroughly rinsed out afterwards
B Proprietary carpet spot cleaner for nylon pile carpets
C Proprietary dry cleaning fluid[1]
D Methylated spirit [2]
E Proprietary oxygenising agent [2]

Warnings: [1]Fumes are toxic and must not be inhaled. [2]Highly flammable liquids. Care should be taken in handling. No naked flames and no smoking in the vicinity.

Flotex Spot cleaning chart

Substance	Immediate clean-up agents	Dried on stain removal agents
Coffee, tea, minerals, fruit juices, foods (non fatty), tomato and brown sauce.	A, then B if necessary	B
Fatty foods, cooking oil	B, then A	B, repeat if necessary, then A
Alcoholic drinks	A	D then B
Chewing gum, sweet or sugary residues, plasticine etc.	Freeze with proprietary aerosol, break pieces. Then C sparingly.	Freeze with proprietary aerosol, break off brittle pieces. Then C sparingly.
Cooking fats (which solidify) etc	C, then B	C, then B
Ball point ink/boot polish	D, then A	D, then A
Mud	Allow to dry, vacuum then A	Vacuum then A
Tar	C, then A	Scrape off excess, C then A
Waxes	Scrape off excess, C	Scrape off excess, C
Paints	Mop up excess, then A (waterbased paints). Cloth moistened with C or D (spirit based paints)	Must be cleaned up immediately
Oil, petrol, paraffin	A, or B	C, then B
Antifreeze, brake, clutch fluid, Power steering fluid	A	C
Faeces, vomit	Remove solids, A	Remove solids, B then A
Blood	Mop up excess, A	B, then A
Urine	Remove excess and flush out with plenty of plain water	Brush agitate with water treated with Flotex Clean-It 160:1, then extract/sponge up
Iodoform (2%) Mercurochrome Gentian Violet	Absorb excess, D then A	E, then A
Medicines generally	B	B then D (if necessary), then A
Dental cements, waxes, rubbers	Leave to dry	Scrape off excess, C then A

WARNING: The following substances can damage or discolour Flotex:

- Dyes etc. and substances containing dyes or pigments e.g. hair dye
- Strong acids e.g. battery acids
- Strong alkalis e.g. some oven cleaners
- Bleach or strong oxidising/reducing agents, e.g. hypochlorite or hydrogen peroxide
- Ketones e.g. acetone
- Some solvents
- Substances hotter than 200°C
- Urine e.g. some instances of incontinence can discolour Flotex
- Vinyl runners – must not be used since they can cause rippling and bubbling
- (k) Stilettos, uncapped chairs and stools etc
- Foodstuffs containing strong colourants including some beverages

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Contact Karndean Designflooring
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