



### **ARDEX CG Cleaning and Maintenance Guidelines**

By routinely cleaning your floor properly, you will maximize its performance, appearance, and slip resistance. If you have a floor cleaning service, make sure they are instructed according to this guide.

#### ***Sacrificial Wax***

For interior applications, especially those that must retain a certain aesthetic value, it is recommended that several layers of a sacrificial floor wax be used over the ARDEX CG to prevent undue staining and wear. Follow the wax manufacturer's installation and usage instructions.

#### ***Why Clean Your Floor?***

**Appearance:** Naturally, your floor will look its best when it is clean. By installing a polymeric floor in your facility, you are telling people that you care about your image. By instituting a scheduled cleaning program, the floor will continue to look and perform as it did when it was first installed.

**Safety:** No matter how aggressive the texture of your floor, if it is not cleaned properly, it can present a slip hazard. Emulsifying, rinsing and drying your floor properly will reduce the risk of a slip and fall incident.

**Service Life:** The lifetime of your floor will be directly proportional to how well you clean it. Particularly in aggressive-use areas, (i.e., kitchens and service bays), contaminants such as oils, dirt, and grease work with water and bacteria to attack your floor. This will lead to premature aging of the floor.

#### ***Recommended Cleaning Tools***

**Mechanical Scrubbers (floor machines):** Self-contained mechanical scrubbers are the most efficient and cost-effective method. Pay particular attention to the type of cleaning pad being used. The abrasive pad should not mark the surface of the floor.

**Spray Cleaning/Power Washers:** In most cases, power washing is combined with chemical cleaning. Hot water under pressure is insufficient to emulsify oils and grease. Power wash, scrub with a chemical, and then rinse.

**Broom:** A hard bristle broom is an effective cleaning tool for most small applications. Soak the floor with the cleaner and water and allow the cleaner to sit on the surface for 10 – 15 minutes. Scrub the floor with the broom. After scrubbing, rinse, and then vacuum the solution from the surface.

**Mops:** Mops are generally ineffective except for smooth finish floors in the mildest cleaning situations. It is important to change the cleaning solution and rinse your mop often.

**Wet/Dry Vacuum:** In areas that do not have drains (if mechanical scrubber is not available), it is important to vacuum all of the cleaning solution from the floor. Do not allow the floor to air-dry.

**Squeegee:** Use a flat squeegee to move the cleaning solution to the drains. A flat squeegee will leave the floor fairly dry.

### ***Recommended Cleaners***

**Heavy Duty Cleaner-Degreaser:** The recommended cleaner for polymer floors is a heavy duty cleaner-degreaser. This cleaner is non-corrosive and should be used in areas with high oil and grease build-up (i.e., kitchens, machine shops, automotive repair areas, oil change areas, etc.). It is most effective when diluted with warm and hot water (1 quart of heavy duty to 5 gallons of hot water) and allowed to sit on the floor for 10 - 15 minutes before scrubbing. A thorough rinsing is necessary. If the cleaner is not completely rinsed, a white residue will be left on the surface.

**Tire Mark Remover:** Used to remove tire marks from polymer floor systems. Keep tires off of newly installed floors. Place pieces of carpet or cardboard under the tires. New tires that have not been used on the road may bleed a plasticizer, which may stain the floor.

### ***When to Clean Your Floors***

How often you need to clean your floor depends on the type of contaminants the floor is exposed to. Frequent cleaning is recommended for optimum performance.

The more harsh the environment, the more frequently you should clean your floors. Dust and dirt will dull the finish if not removed on a regular basis.

Chemical spills such as battery acids, phosphoric acids, dyes, iodine, etc., in many cases, will stain without otherwise damaging the floor. We recommend cleaning chemical spills immediately.

Floors in machine shops and oil change facilities should be cleaned 2 - 3 times per week with the above recommended soak/scrub/rinse procedure.

### ***Daily Cleaning Procedure***

1. Sweep entire surface area to be cleaned.
2. Mix 1 quart of Heavy Duty Cleaner Degreaser with 5 gallons of hot water in large pail. Disperse this solution using a stiff bristle broom and allow it to soak for 10 minutes.
3. Scrub the entire area using a standard floor machine with a nylon brush attachment. Do not allow solution to dry out.
4. Rinse entire area with a hose into floor drains. If drains do not exist, rinse water will need to be removed with a vacuum. Thorough rinsing is critical to remove all emulsified oils. If rinsing is not adequate, there will be a white residue around equipment.
5. Squeegee any standing water from under equipment or in work areas.

### ***Reapplication***

For exterior applications and applications where a sacrificial wax layer has not been applied / maintained, it will be necessary to evaluate the ARDEX CG periodically to assess its ability to repel liquid. Reapply ARDEX CG as necessary for optimum performance.



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