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EC61-1152 Care of Surfacing Materials

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care of Surfacing Materials

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Modern surfacing materials vary in composition and characteristics. No one method of cleaning or type of coating is satisfactory for the entire array. Paste wax, for instance, gives a soft lustre to a wood floor, but causes asphalt tile to become gummy and dissolve.

Since proper care of the material is the most vital factor in insuring long life and attractive appearance, it is important to know the kind of care recommended for the various surfaces.

Read the labels to determine the classification of the cleaning products and waxes in your store. If the information is not clear, the odor will tell you whether a product has a naphtha base. Water-based waxes have no definite odor. Fumes from strong syndets smell alkaline and seem to "burn" the nostrils.

Be sure you know what surfacing material you are treating. You may have several different ones in your home. The chart on the inside pages will tell you what products are recommended for the various materials.

Maintenance and care of surfacing is the same whether it is used on a floor, a counter, or in some other way. Stainless steel, laminated melamine and polyester laminated plastics used on counters require only wiping with a damp cloth and have not been included in this summary.

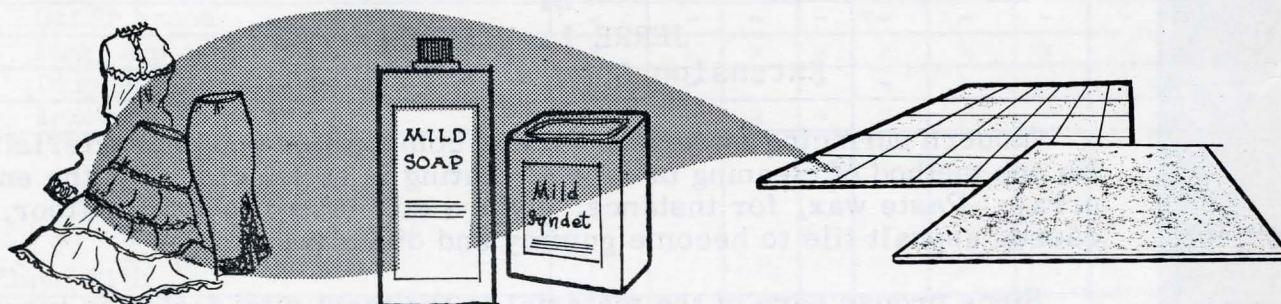
TROUBLE PREVENTION

Maintain the flooring to postpone heavy cleaning. "Keep it clean rather than clean it" might be a good rule to remember.

1. Protect the floor from denting under heavy furniture by using cups or gliders with large, flat, smooth surfaces.
2. Prevent small dents from protruding nails in shoes, cleats in golf or football shoes, or taps by wearing smooth shoes indoors.
3. Prevent scratching from outdoor grit by providing a mat or rug at entrances.

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4. Dust frequently with a dry mop or soft brush. Stiff bristles cause tiny scratches that dull the finish. Stiff bristles cause cement to sluff off and powder.
5. Freshen surfaces, other than wood, with a mop thoroughly wrung out in clear water.
6. Spot clean as spills occur. Soil collects soil, and if wet or greasy, will be slippery.
7. Do not use an oil mop as oil produces a sticky film to which dust adheres.



SUITABLE PRODUCTS

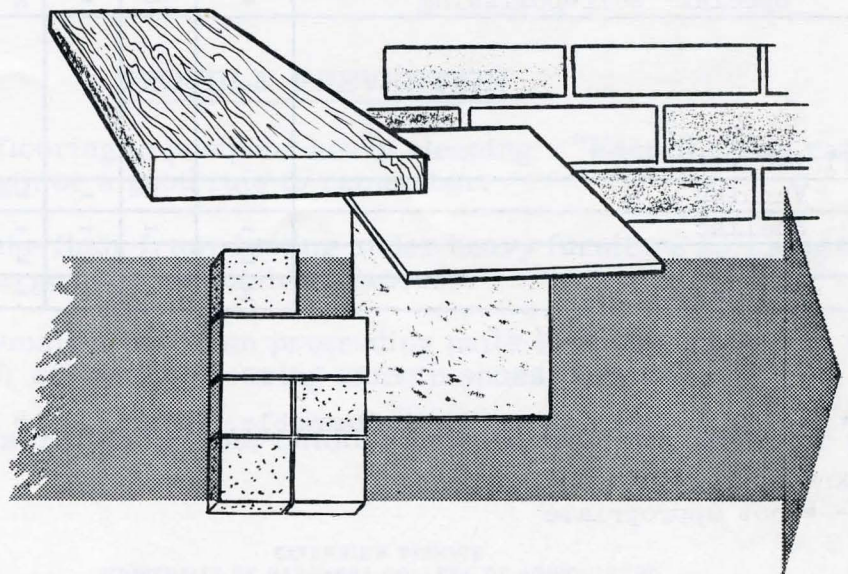
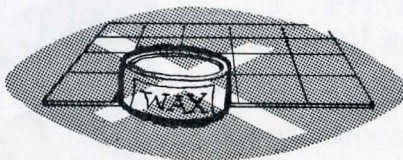
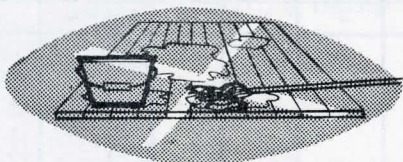
Clean, when necessary, with the product suitable to the material. There are so many different preparations in the market under the name of "cleaner," selection may be easier if classifications are defined.

1. Mild soaps and mild syndets are water soluble powders, flakes, or liquids that you would use on your skin or fine lingerie.
2. Water-based compounds are special products for floors. Most of them are more alkaline than mild syndets.
3. Abrasive cleaners are gritty powders used directly on the surface.
4. Solvents or neutral cleaners are naphtha-based liquids such as gasoline or carbon tetrachloride.
5. Solvent-based wax cleaners are emulsions of wax in a spirit base.
6. Paste wax contains a volatile solvent that carries the wax particles. It takes longer to apply than other types, and must be buffed. None of the newer forms of wax, however, have ever surpassed it for rich luster and wearability on wood.
7. Liquid wax is made of the same ingredients with the wax suspended in more solvent. A floor waxed with liquid wax must also be buffed for best results.
8. Water-based wax is a liquid using water for the carrier instead of spirits. It is easy to apply and dries to a shine.
9. "Special" self-polishing wax is a water emulsion developed for vinyl surfaces. Since these floorings are non-porous, ordinary wax builds up and gives a yellowish appearance.

CORRECT METHOD

For best results, use the correct method as well as a suitable product.

1. Use water sparingly. Water, if allowed to stand on the floor, may loosen the seams, cause the material to buckle, or the pores to expand. Never use water on wood.
2. Use warm (90-100 degrees F.) water solutions. Hot water or steam deteriorates adhesive and the materials themselves.
3. Avoid strong soaps and detergents that will dull or even dissolve color. Alkali dries out the surfacing making it hard and brittle.
4. Avoid abrasive cleaners where they may create a maze of fine scratches to hold dirt.
5. Beware of solvent cleaners. Many are highly inflammable. Breathing the fumes from others of these products is harmful. Never use a solvent on asphalt or rubber tile.
6. Use water-based compounds on vinyl and rinse well. Vinyls are non-porous and film rides on top of surface.
7. Wait several days after installation before cleaning any of the surfaces.
8. Wax after every cleaning for floor protection, beauty, and ease of maintenance.
9. Wax sparingly. Two thin coats will do a better job than one heavy one.
10. Do not use paste or solvent-based liquid wax on asphalt or rubber.
11. Do not use water-based wax or "special" self-polishing wax on wood or cork.
12. Do not use any wax except "special" self-polishing on vinyl floors.



CARE OF VARIOUS SURFACING MATERIALS

TYPE OF CARE	Linoleum - Inlaid or Tile	Ceramic Tile	Cork Tile - Natural	Vinyl	Asphalt Tile	Rubber Tile	Vinyl Asbestos	Colored Cement	Wood	Brick & Slate	Felt Base Enamel
Maintain With											
Dry mop or soft brush	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Stiff broom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Damp mop	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x
Oily mop	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lambs wool buffer	x	-	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	x
Clean With											
Clear water	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x
Mild Soap	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	x	x
Mild syndet	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	x	x
Strong syndet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solvent-base wax cleaner*	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x
Abrasive cleaner	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solvent cleaner *	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x
Water-base compound	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x
Steel wool	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x	x	-
Wax With											
Water base self-polishing	x	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	-	x	x
Solvent base paste *	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x
Solvent base liquid *	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x
"Special" self-polishing	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	-
Finish With											
Varnish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shellac	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plastic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petrating seal	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	-

* Caution: Solvent may be inflammable, injurious to breathe or both.

x = appropriate

- = not appropriate