

16 Resistance to chemicals



16.1 POLYFLOR VINYL FLOORING

Polyflor and Polysafe vinyl floorcoverings show an above average resistance to mild and dilute acids, alkalis, soaps and detergents. Petrol and strong acids are not harmful, provided any spillage is cleaned off immediately.

Ketones, chlorinated solvents, acetone and similar solvents should not be allowed to come into contact with Polyflor vinyl flooring. However, if this should happen, the effect can be minimised by removing the spillage immediately and leaving any solvent residue to evaporate, prior to allowing any foot traffic.

Polyflor vinyl floorcoverings are suitable for use in all areas where most chemicals are used

and there is only risk of accidental spillage. However, some chemicals contain very strong dyes, which, even after a short period of contact, will stain the vinyl flooring. In areas where these types of chemicals are used, it is suggested that an appropriate dark colour be selected to minimise the staining effect.

The following tables summarise the general chemical resistance of Polyflor vinyl flooring (see footnote for brief description of test procedure). Where specific chemicals are used - for instance in a photographic laboratory - a set of chemical resistance charts is available on request. These charts show the resistance to a range of specific chemicals by shade for each

ORGANIC LIQUIDS	EFFECT	ACTION
Aldehydes Esters Halogenated hydrocarbons Ketones	Flooring attack occurs after several minutes.	Wipe up immediately.
Alcohols Ethers Glycols Hydrocarbons (aromatic & aliphatic) Petroleum spirit Vegetable oil	After several days, plasticiser extraction occurs, with associated problems of shrinkage and embrittlement.	Wipe up immediately.
AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS	EFFECT	ACTION
Mild acids and alkalis	No effect.	
Strong alkalis	Will strip polish and may cause discolouration in some shades.	Dilute and remove.
Strong acids	Prolonged contact can cause discolouration.	Dilute and remove immediately.
Dyes (Indicators)	Contact can cause discolouration.	Dilute and remove immediately.

Polyflor product, and will prove helpful in selecting colours which are least affected by specific chemicals.

Note: Polyflor test for resistance to chemicals is evaluated over a 24 hour contact period at a room temperature of 21°C, followed by rinsing with cold water. Polyflor believes this simulates the worst situation where spillages are not removed immediately and are only cleaned by normal maintenance. Some stains can be removed by abrading with a nylon pad during maintenance. A metallised emulsion floor polish can be used as a sacrificial layer for protecting the floor against staining.

16.2 POLYFLOR RUBBER FLOORCOVERINGS

Polyflor Rubber floorcoverings have average resistance to mild and dilute acids, alkalis, soaps and detergents. Prolonged exposure to petrol, oils, greases and fats will cause softening and swelling. Polyflor Rubber floorcoverings are unsuitable for garage workshops or food preparation areas, but are suitable for areas where spillage is infrequent. Occasional, accidental spillages, which are removed

immediately, do not normally damage the flooring. A comprehensive guide to chemical effects and staining by product shade is available on request.

16.3 REACTION TO RUBBER

Antioxidants used in the manufacture of rubber can cause staining. Non-rubber traffic mats are recommended, as are tyre trays for car showrooms, etc. Using black or dark brown floorcoverings will not prevent staining but will disguise it. Lighter coloured rubber can also be specified for appliance feet, trolley wheels etc.

16.4 ALCO-BASED HAND GELS

Polyflor homogeneous PUR, heterogeneous PUR and Polysafe safety flooring ranges are compatible for use with the most commonly used alco-based hand gels. Some alco-based hand gels contain a high concentration of ethanol and to discuss their compatibility with other Polyflor floorcoverings, contact Customer Technical Services.