

## Maintenance Instructions - Traverse™ Luxury Vinyl Planks & Tiles

### Introduction

The Traverse™ range of Luxury Vinyl Planks and Tiles has a pure vinyl wear layer with Zintion reinforcement that provides exceptional performance in commercial applications

A program of regular maintenance will not only help extend the life of the floor but also maintain its attractive appearance.

### Care During Installation

1. Immediately upon completion of installation, remove any adhesive from surface of plank or tile. When adhesive is wet with a clean cotton rag dampened with warm soapy water. If dry follow adhesive manufacturer's recommendations to clean dry adhesive. Do Not use any chemical that will damage vinyl flooring.
2. After completion of the installation, cover the floor until completion of construction with protective heavy-duty construction paper, corrugated covering or other suitable protective covering.
3. If other construction activity is ongoing after installation, moving of equipment, furniture or other activity, cover the installed flooring with ¼ inch plywood to prevent damage.
4. Suitable commercial quality chair and furniture glides should be securely fitted to the bottom of all furniture.

### Entrance Systems

Studies have shown that 80 – 85% of all dirt in a building enters the building from outside. The majority of dirt particles and dust entering a building can be effectively removed by well placed and adequate entrance systems such as walk off carpet at all entrances from outside, including parking garages. This will significantly cut down on maintenance time and costs and is a sound investment.

### Post Installation Maintenance

*Note: It may be necessary to wait up to seven days to begin post installation maintenance to allow the adhesive to fully cure. Consult with the adhesive manufacturer to verify accurate curing times and other recommendations. Traverse flooring adhesive requires 72 hours minimum curing time post installation before floor maintenance can begin.*

1. Once construction has been completed, remove all protective covers. Remove all residual adhesive, all loose debris, including soil, sand / grit, and dust by sweeping, dust mopping and/or vacuuming.
2. Failure to remove particles and debris may result in scratching or other damage to the flooring.
3. Place wet floor signs. Flooring materials can be slippery when wet, keep traffic off floors until completely dry.
4. **Never** flood finished flooring with either water or cleaning solution as this may negatively affect the adhesive bond. Use as little water as possible.
5. Mop the floor with water and a pH neutral detergent such as Diversey (Taski) R50, Johnson Diversey (Johnsons Stride), Hillyard or other suitable brands. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for luxury vinyl flooring.
6. Dilute according to the manufacturers recommendations if the product is not sold in RTD (ready to dispense) or RTU (ready to use) format.
7. Traditional mops are recommended for small areas. For large areas use an auto-scrubber or rotary scrubbing machine fitted with a red 3M pad.
8. Excess liquid should be wet-vacuumed to remove the soiled water / cleaning solution. Failure to remove the soiled water / cleaning solution may result in a hazy appearance or streaking, which results in an uneven look to the floor.
9. Rinse the floor with clean water and allow it to dry.

10. It is imperative for initial maintenance to be thorough so as to restore the desired appearance of the flooring.

### **Selection of Appropriate Maintenance Method**

There are four acceptable methods of maintenance for Traverse. Determine the best practice to retain the look and performance of the flooring.

#### **1. Routine Maintenance**

It will be necessary to use cleaning machines when following a no-polish maintenance program.

- A. Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor to remove all dust, sand and other particles.
- B. Place wet floor signs in appropriate areas.

##### **Small and Low Traffic Areas**

- A. Mop and bucket maintenance is sufficient, with periodic deep cleaning.
- B. If a higher gloss is desired follow with a low speed dry-buffing.

##### **High Traffic Areas**

- A. Use a low speed auto-scrubber or rotary scrubbing machine (175 – 250 rpm) with a red 3M pad.
- B. Scrub the floor using a solution of neutral pH detergent.
- C. Once the floor has been scrubbed remove dirty detergent solution.
- D. Rinse the floor with clean water.
- E. Optional – dry buff the flooring following the guidelines outlined in the “Dry Buffing” section below.
- F. It is important to use machines to clean the floor when following a no-polish maintenance procedure.
- G. Never use a black or brown pad when maintaining Traverse.

#### **Dry Buffing**

If a no-polish maintenance program is adopted, areas of heavy traffic require a dry-buff procedure to restore the desired gloss level. After wet cleaning and flooring is dry, use a rotary machine with a dry clean beige or red 3M pad.

Dry-buff the floor at 175 - 250 rpm. It is important to continually move the machine due to friction created during dry buffing. Never leave it stationary while in operation. Traverse should not be high-speed burnished.

If maintenance staff are not confident in the process of no-polish maintenance or lack the equipment to follow all the steps correctly, then it would be advisable to polish the floor.

#### **2. Use of Maintainers**

If a higher gloss level is required, maintainers are a good option in place of neutral cleaning solution. Maintainers are floor-cleaning solutions that contain detergent and a small amount of acrylic polymer, which is the same material that is used in acrylic based floor finish.

- A. Sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor to remove all dust, sand and other particles.
- B. Place wet floor signs.
- C. Use a low speed auto-scrubber or rotary scrubbing machine (175 – 250 rpm) with a red 3M pad.
- D. Scrub the floor using a solution of Diversey (Taski) Wiwax maintainer. Once the floor has been scrubbed with a machine, wet-vacuum the floor to remove the dirty solution.
- E. Do not rinse the floor area after use.
- F. Procedure requires no dry buffing.

- G. Alternate cleaning procedures by carrying out cleaning using Wiwax one day and neutral cleaner the next. This will help to minimize build up of maintenance materials.
- H. Occasional attention to build up of maintenance materials may need to be addressed, by scrubbing with a rotary scrubbing machine or using a deck brush in combination with a suitable alkaline cleaning solution.

### 3. Spray Buffing

- A. After post construction cleaning, apply two to three coats of a high quality acrylic based commercial floor finish to achieve the desired gloss level such as Diversey Carefree Matte (low-gloss) or Diversey Showplace (high-gloss). Follow manufacturer's instructions for specific recommendations.
- B. Follow the cleaning maintenance guidelines prior to spray buffing.
- C. Apply spray buff solution such as Taski P44 or Johnson Diversey Snapback following the manufacturer's recommendations. Buff using a low-speed rotary machine with a white 3M buffing pad.
- D. Spry buffing is recommended for all levels of traffic and will restore the floor to the original sheen.

### 4. Maintenance Program with Polish / Finish

- A. After post construction cleaning, the floor can be polished. **Traverse** does not require the use of sealers.
- B. Apply 2 coats of an acrylic based finish, such as Diversey Carefree Matte (low-gloss) or Diversey Showplace (high-gloss). Follow manufacturer's instructions for application.
- C. Once the finish has dried, follow proceed with routine maintenance.
- D. Periodic deep cleaning is required, determined by traffic and use of the area.
- E. Stripping and re-coating will be determined by traffic and use of the area. To strip the floor use Freedom by Johnson Diversey, follow manufacturer instructions.
  - o Dilute according to manufacturers recommendations
  - o Scrub floor area using a rotary scrubbing machine to remove polish.
  - o Wet vac stripping solution.
  - o Strip small areas at a time, to avoid the stripping solution drying on the surface of the flooring and creating a haze.
  - o Rinse with clean water.
  - o Re-apply 2 coats of polish.

### 5. Important Information:

- A. The following can lead to problems associated with maintenance:
  - o **DO NOT** use dirty water / cleaning solution to maintain floors. Change water/solution regularly.
  - o **DO** establish a maintenance schedule based on traffic and use of an area.
  - o **DO** follow manufacturer's recommended chemical dilution rates.
  - o **DO NOT** flood the floor area. This may affect the adhesive bond.
  - o **DO** consider using micro-fiber mop heads to use the least amount of water when cleaning floor.
  - o **DO** check cleaning and buffing pads regularly.
  - o **DO NOT** use petroleum based rubber products (wheels on carts, patient beds, rubber backed mats, asphalt sealers), which have been known to stain resilient flooring. Use wheels made from non-staining rubber.
  - o **DO** select a disinfectant solution designed for use with resilient flooring for healthcare facilities. Most disinfectants require a periodic deep cleaning and clean water rinse. If the surface tackiness develops, deep clean the resilient flooring to remove disinfectant build-up.