

**altro**

# Maintenance guide for kitchen environments

Altro's recommended maintenance plan for commercial food service facilities

## Introduction

The slip resistance, hygienic performance and long term durability of your new Altro flooring is impacted by the chemicals and techniques you use to clean it. Over sixty years of experience in commercial food service facilities has resulted in the cleaning recommendations outlined below.

Altro flooring can be cleaned by hand or with scrubbing machines. Whatever method is employed, consistent utilization of these protocols will result in a long-lasting, safe and hygienic kitchen floor. Remember these key points:

- If floors get dirty every day, they should be cleaned every day
- Hot water cleans better than cold, use caution when handling hot water
- Use the proper detergent at the recommended dilution ratio
- Mops can be used to apply detergent to the floor or to pick up spills, but they do not loosen stubborn soil from the floor, use friction from brushes or machines for scrubbing
- Let the detergent sit on the floor for 5 minutes to emulsify soils
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water to get soil, grease and soap residue down the drain or mopped up

## Protection

Protect newly installed flooring from foot and rolling traffic for 24 hours and from furniture and fixtures for 72 hours. Protect floor from other trades as well as potential discoloration from certain chemicals such as oils, asphalt or bitumen (i.e new parking lots). If heavy rolling equipment is to be moved over a new floor in the first week, it is advisable to lay hardboard on the flooring to protect the floor and adhesive bond.

Floor protection (coasters) should be used under legs of heavy furniture/ equipment to better distribute weight and to prevent indentation. Cooking equipment with heat sources within 12" of the floor surface should have built-in flame guards or Altro can supply heat deflector shields to be laid under equipment. Cleaning can take place after the adhesive has cured (approximately 72 hours following installation).

## Regular cleaning

The frequency of routine maintenance is dependent on a) the standards set by the owner and b) the amount of traffic and soiling taking place. This may mean hourly, daily, weekly or as necessary for the amount of traffic/soiling and appearance desired.

Non-staining entrance & exit walk-off mats will reduce the amount of dirt and soil entering the area. In addition rubber anti-fatigue mats used on top of the flooring must also be a non-staining variety, typically red rubber. Entrance & exit mats should be long enough to cover at least several strides and must be cleaned on a regular schedule to maintain effectiveness.

## Inspection repair and maintenance program

A regular repair and maintenance program should be adopted to identify areas of damage during the life of the floor. Areas to check regularly include:

- Welds
- Seals around abutments
- Drains
- Areas showing damage
- Areas near heat sources, cooking lines & dishwashing

Damage to Altro high performance vinyl flooring should be repaired as quickly as possible. Cuts in the flooring must be heat welded immediately in order to create a seal against moisture intrusion. There are specific recommendations as to how best to accomplish certain repairs. Please contact your Altro distributor to discuss these.

In typically wet areas such as production kitchens and shower stalls, the Altrofix 30/31 polyurethane adhesive will slow down water migration but will not prevent it.

**Develop a regular cleaning program suited to the usage and traffic of the area** - Heavily trafficked or highly visible areas need to be cleaned more often than areas which are seldom used, or where appearance is less important. The best and most cost effective method of cleaning Altro flooring is by an auto scrubbing machine. Care should be taken to select the correct pad.

**Use recommended cleaning chemicals** - Use only recommended cleaning liquids or their equivalent in the correct dilution. Do not mix two different cleaning liquids together, and always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Always check the suitability of cleaners for use on vinyl floors. Do not use cleaner containing pine oil or phenolic sanitizer.

**Remove scuff marks regularly** - To remove any rubber heel marks by abrasion use the correct machine pad, or scrub by hand. For areas requiring renovation due to neglect or heavy soiling consult Altro Technical Services.

**Protect newly laid floors** - All newly laid floor surfaces should be covered and protected from all other trades during the contract with a suitable nonstaining protective covering, such as Masonite™.

**Dirt control** - 80% of the dirt in a building is carried in on shoes. A suitable dirt excluder outside all entrances and a mat inside just prior to the flooring will protect the flooring. Mats should be regularly cleaned to maintain their effectiveness. Dust control mops are also useful.

### **Some materials are known to cause staining on vinyl floors. Typical examples include:**

- Asphalt and bitumen materials
- Cardboard/Hardboard (wet)
- Fire treatment and maintenance materials used on carpets could transfer to vinyl flooring and cause staining
- Dyes from printed literature or packaging
- Rubber-backed carpets and rubber mats
- Rubber furniture rests and wheels
- Shoe soles not made from non-staining materials
- Heat degradation
- Some chemicals used in cleaners e.g. pine oil

## **Initial maintenance**

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1. Do not begin any maintenance procedure for at least 72 hours after installation.
2. Sweep or vacuum floor surface to remove all loose dust and debris.
3. Use AltroClean™ 44 diluted with warm clean water to a concentration of 1:40 (approximately two ounces per one gallon of water). DO NOT FLOOD THE FLOOR.
4. Scrub floor with an automatic scrubber (3 in 1 machine) or a standard low speed swing machine (150rpm to 350rpm) fitted with an Altro Unipad™.
5. If using a standard low-speed swing machine, remove wash water with a wet vac. Ensure the floor is thoroughly rinsed with fresh, clean water. No cleaning residue should remain on the floor.
6. Allow surface to dry before use.

**See other side for regular maintenance instructions and recommendations on maintenance products.**

## Routine machine maintenance

1. Sweep and/or vacuum floor surface to remove all loose dust and debris.
2. Apply diluted\* AltroClean 44™ to the floor. Allow to sit for 5 minutes to allow the cleaner to attack the surface soil. DO NOT flood the floor unless the flooring system was designed for holding water and was installed per Altro's Detailing guide for wet environments. Always allow the adhesive to dry and cure before flooding any floor.
3. Scrub floor with an automatic scrubber (3 in 1 machine) or a standard low speed swing machine (150rpm to 350rpm) fitted with an Altro Unipad™.
4. If using a standard low-speed swing machine, remove wash water with a wet vac.
5. Ensure the floor is thoroughly rinsed with fresh, clean water. No cleaning residue should remain on the floor.
6. Squeegee to drain.
7. Allow surface to dry before use.

\* Dilution rates depend on the condition of the floor. For heavy soiling, typical in commercial kitchens, use 1:10. For moderate soiling use a 1:40 dilution ratio.

## Routine manual maintenance

1. Sweep and/or vacuum floor surface to remove all loose dust and debris.
2. Apply diluted\* AltroClean 44™ to the floor. Allow to sit for 5 minutes to allow the cleaner to attack the surface soil. DO NOT flood the floor unless the flooring system was designed for holding water and was installed per Altro's Detailing guide for wet environments. Always allow the adhesive to dry and cure before flooding any floor.
3. Scrub floor with a rectangular Altro Unipad or a deck brush attached to a mop handle.
4. Remove wash water with a wet vac, rough floor mop using a double bucket or squeegee toward a drain.
5. Ensure the floor is thoroughly rinsed with fresh, clean water. No cleaning residue should remain on the floor.
6. Squeegee to drain.
7. Allow surface to dry before use.

\* Dilution rates depend on the condition of the floor. For heavy soiling, typical in commercial kitchens, use 1:10. For moderate soiling use a 1:40 dilution ratio.

## Recommended maintenance products

Cleaners		
AltroClean 44	Altro Floor Guy	800.377.5597 877.356.6748
Diversey Stride	Floor Guy	877.356.6748
Profi Floor Cleaner	Floor Guy	877.356.6748
Diversey Break Up	Floor Guy	877.356.6748
Super Grease Buster	Floor Guy	877.356.6748

Disinfectants		
Virex 128	Floor Guy	877.356.6748
PerDiem	Floor Guy	877.356.6748
VIROX 5	Floor Guy	877.356.6748

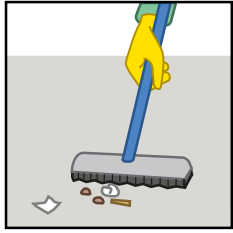
Equipment		
Altro Unipad*	Altro Floor Guy	800.377.5597 877.356.6748
3M Floor Machine Pads	Floor Guy	877.356.6748
Flo-Pac Swivel Scrub	Carlisle	888.654.8210
Deck Brush	Carlisle	888.654.8210
Taski Machines	Diversey	888.352.2249
Auto Scrubbers	Diversey	888.352.2249
Nilfisk	Advance Co.	800.989.2235

High quality cleaning chemicals and equipment ensure efficient maintenance and represent only a small proportion of maintenance costs. The suppliers listed in the chart above offer excellent products.

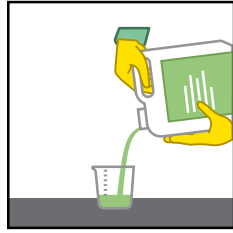
Altro Unipads are highly recommended for cleaning Altro flooring and are available for both manual and machine cleaning.

They are offered in two sizes; Manual - 4" x 14" Flat and Machine - 17" Round.

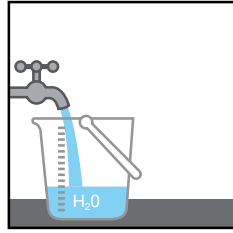
# Manual cleaning



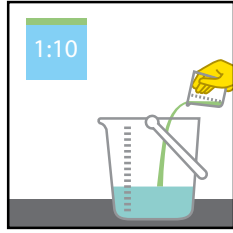
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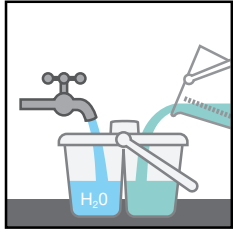
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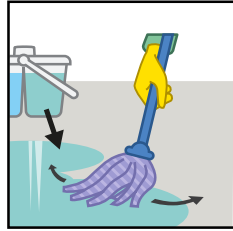
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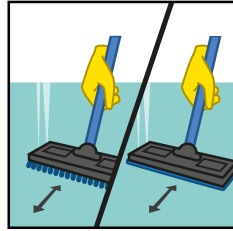
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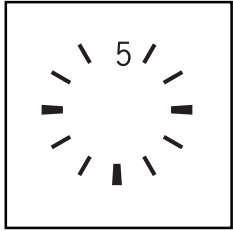
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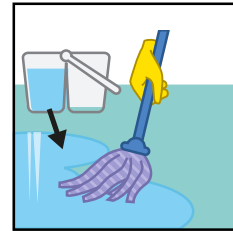
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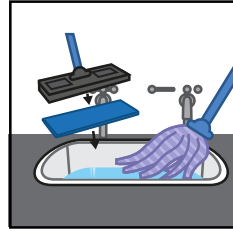
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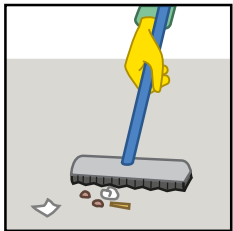


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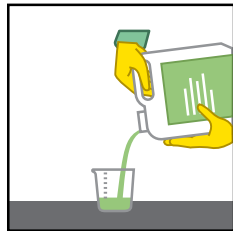


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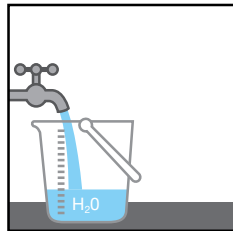
# Machine cleaning



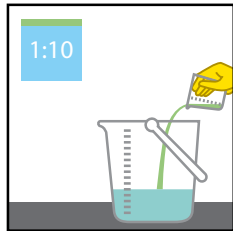
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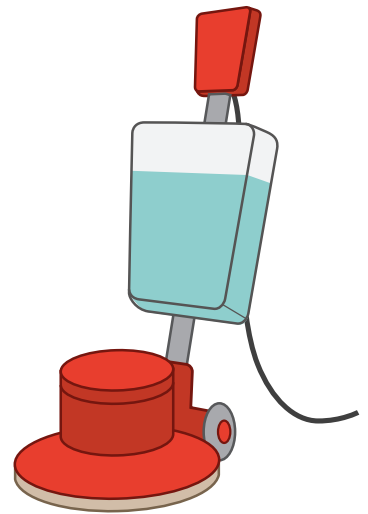
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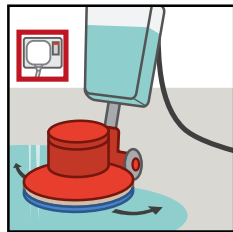
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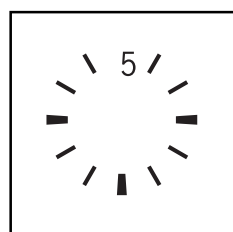
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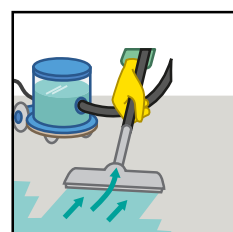
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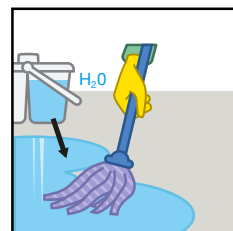
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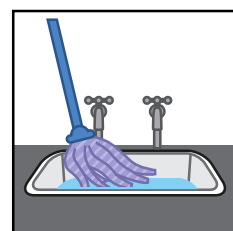
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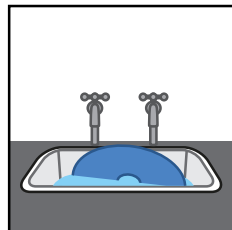
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