



CARING FOR MARMOLEUM AT HOME



marmoleum[®]
marmoleum[®] *click*
certified sustainable flooring



topshield™ PRO

Marmoleum with Topshield pro

Forbo Marmoleum products feature Topshield pro.

This strong and durable protective top layer is applied to Marmoleum during the manufacturing process. Topshield pro is a water-based finish that ensures your floor has a highly effective shield against dirt and scuff marks. It also makes Marmoleum easier to clean and keep clean. Topshield pro makes your Marmoleum floor occupancy ready – meaning that once it's installed, a quick cleaning of the floor is all that's needed. No additional finish is required!

Lots of floors and finishes work well in theory, but only Marmoleum with Topshield pro works in the real world – where spills and dirt may not be cleaned up immediately and your floor gets permanent stains and scratches. Thankfully, Topshield pro has been designed to handle spills and dirt! When compared to other finishes, it releases dirt easier, and the matte finish shows less wear and has a better resistance to stains and scratches. Over time, as the floor is used, Marmoleum with Topshield pro can be refreshed and renewed, bringing our floor back the beauty of when it was first installed. The unmatched richness in color and design of Marmoleum will stay sharp and striking for many years – all thanks to Topshield pro and a little care and attention from you!

This guide will provide you the simple steps to protect your Marmoleum floor throughout its life.



Please visit www.forboflooringNA.com
to download the latest version of this guide.

What is Ambering?

Ambering is the slight yellow hue to Marmoleum when it is first removed from the packaging. This is a natural phenomenon that happens with Marmoleum and is completely normal. Linseed oil, a natural oil extracted from flax seeds and one of the main ingredients in Marmoleum is what causes this yellow hue. This very important ingredient in Marmoleum provides several unique characteristics:

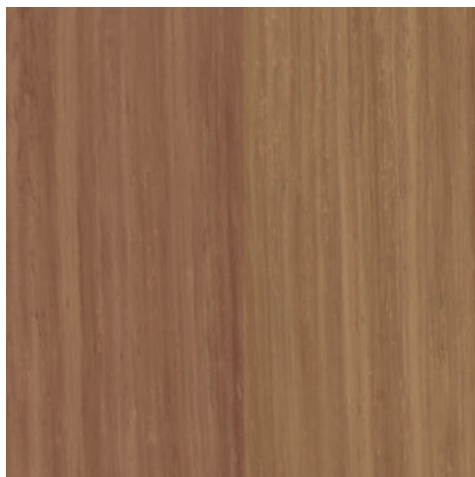
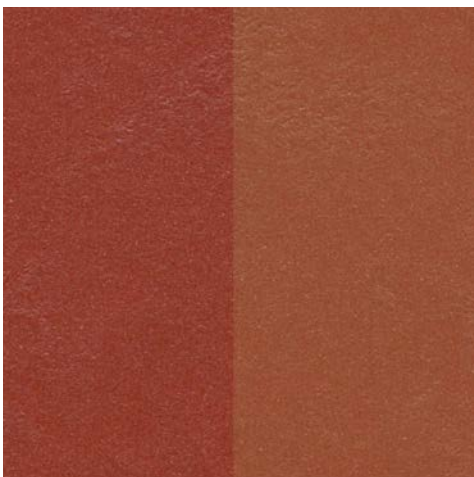
- Linseed oil, along with wood flour, makes the floor naturally antistatic, repelling dust, making Marmoleum easy to clean.
- When exposed to air and light, the linseed oil oxidizes from within the Marmoleum and continues for the life of the product. This makes the material harden over time and become more durable.

As time passes, the ambering will fade as Marmoleum is exposed to light, but its unique characteristics will not. The process may take as little as a few hours in bright sunlight, but it can take longer with artificial light. Areas that are not exposed to any light will retain the yellow hue until they are exposed to light. If an area of Marmoleum is covered with a carpet or a piece of furniture for an extended period, it's possible the yellow hue will re-appear. Don't be alarmed – it will fade once again when it's exposed to light.

Because this is a natural occurrence in the product, there is no set time frame for the yellow hue to fade. This is not a material defect. It's actually a sign that Marmoleum is revealing its unique and valuable characteristics! Performing floor care procedures will not inhibit the process. It's just takes a little bit of time and understanding what great benefits this process brings to Marmoleum!

All colors of Marmoleum are subject to ambering, however it can be more noticeable in certain colors. Light blues, greens, greys and beiges will display a more visible yellow hue than darker colors. To discover the true color of Marmoleum, follow these few simple steps:

- 1.** Take a piece of Marmoleum and cover one half with heavy paper, cardboard or another piece of Marmoleum.
- 2.** Place these pieces in direct sunlight for approximately 1 hour.
- 3.** After the time has passed, remove the cardboard or heavy material and see the visual difference firsthand.



Do...

- ✓ Dry sweep the floor as a quick and easy way to keep your Marmoleum clean.
- ✓ Mop up spills as soon as possible to prevent staining.
- ✓ Rinse the floor after cleaning. Any cleaner left behind on the floor will attract dirt.
- ✓ Use 2 mops – one for cleaning the floor and one for rinsing the floor.
- ✓ Allow the floor to dry completely before walking on it.
- ✓ Clean your Marmoleum regularly.
- ✓ Use carpets or mats at all doors to help keep outside dirt off the floor. To see Forbo's entry mats, visit www.forboflooringNA.com and search for 'Entrance'.
- ✓ Make sure all chair and furniture legs have a felt protector, furniture caps or similar to prevent scratches and other damage to the floor.
- ✓ Use care when moving heavy objects.

Don't...

- ✗ Drag furniture or heavy objects across the floor.
- ✗ Use excessive water to clean your Marmoleum floor. Use just what you need to avoid flooding or damage.
- ✗ Use just any cleaner on your Marmoleum floor. The pH of the cleaner is important! It should be between 6.0 – 8.0 pH. Contact the cleaner's manufacturer if the pH is not on the product's label.
- ✗ Mix different cleaning chemicals with one another unless specified by the manufacturer.
- ✗ Use furniture polish or silicone products on Marmoleum.
- ✗ Use any finish on Marmoleum other than Forbo's Residential Floor Finish.
- ✗ Apply thick coats of finish. Two or three thin coats are better than one thick coat.
- ✗ Apply finish to a dirty floor – it just seals in the dirt!



Frequently Asked Questions

How often should I clean my Marmoleum floor?

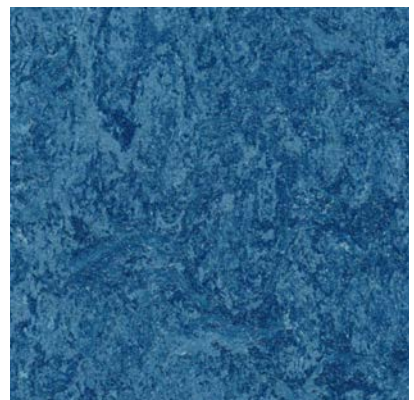
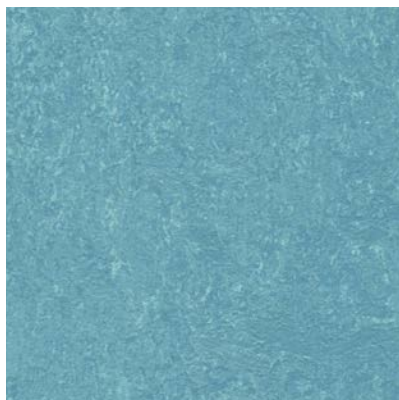
Like with any other surface in your house, this will vary. The number of people in the house will impact the frequency of cleaning. The more people, the more the floor is used, so it may need to be cleaned more frequently. Another factor is how much dirt from outside gets onto the floor? If it's near an entrance to the house that doesn't have any mats to wipe your feet on, the floor can become dirty faster. Weather and geography can also affect how often you clean your floor. Areas that have large amounts of snow and salt used in the winter months may need to be cleaned more often than dry areas that don't have this exposure.

How do I clean my Marmoleum floor?

Removing the loose dirt from the floor is likely to be the most frequent procedure you do. This can be done by sweeping, vacuuming or dust mopping the floor. For a more thorough clean, think about how you wash your car – you wet the car, scrub it with soapy mixture, rinse away the dirt and soap, and let it dry. You'll take care of Marmoleum the same way! You can also spot clean the floor to remove spills following the same steps.

Marmoleum is a natural floor and I want to use a natural cleaner on my floor. What can I use?

There are many cleaners available at your local hardware, home improvement and grocery stores that claim they are "natural" cleaners and safe for use on all kinds of floors. Unfortunately, many times these cleaners are not safe for all floors – causing damage or leaving heavy residue on the floor that cannot be removed or repaired. If you're going to buy a cleaner, we strongly recommend using Forbo's Neutral pH Cleaner. If you're looking for a household cleaner, you can mix 50% vinegar with 50% water to clean the floor. Be sure that no matter which cleaner that you use, rinse the floor thoroughly with clean water following the cleaning.



Frequently Asked Questions

What if my Marmoleum floor has ingrained dirt?

Ingrained dirt will have to be removed with friction – in other words, a little elbow grease can go a long way! A non-abrasive scrubbing sponge is ideal for these situations. Use care in spot cleaning and be sure to use cleaning tools that will not be too aggressive and cause damage. For larger spaces, you can use a cleaning machine such as a small rotary floor machine to remove the ingrained dirt. And it's always important anytime you're cleaning the floor to let others know the floor is wet. Allow the floor to dry completely before walking on it.

I noticed a stain on my Marmoleum floor.

How do I remove it?

Most stains can be removed from your Marmoleum, however, stains from glue, varnish, paint, ink, tar, cosmetics, shoe polish, some wines, coffee or similar substances may be persistent. The following steps can help to remove the stain:

- 1.** If the substance is still on the floor, pick up, blot, or use a plastic putty knife to remove as much of the substance as you can.
- 2.** Wipe or mop the area with a solution of Forbo Neutral pH Cleaner.
- 3.** Use a clean cloth or mop to remove the substance and cleaner from the floor.
- 4.** Wipe or damp mop the area with clean, unheated tap water.
- 5.** If the stain still remains, you may need to let the cleaner sit on the floor for several minutes to break up the stain. Don't leave the cleaner on the floor for more than 10 minutes. Gently rub the floor with a cloth or non-abrasive scrubbing sponge.
- 6.** Repeat Steps 3 and 4.
- 7.** Allow the area to dry completely before walking on it.
- 8.** If the stain remains, contact Forbo's Technical Services before trying anything else.





Frequently Asked Questions

I have scratches on my Marmoleum floor. How do I fix them?

Depending on the severity of the scratch, there are multiple repair methods that can be done on Marmoleum. For information on how to repair your Marmoleum, please email a photo and description of the scratched area to technical.na@forbo.com.





Frequently Asked Questions

My pet had an “accident” on my Marmoleum floor. What should I do?

Accidents happen! Here are a few quick steps to follow:

1. Act quickly!
2. Pick up, blot, or use a plastic putty knife to remove as much of the accident from the floor as you can.
3. Wipe or mop the area with a solution of Forbo Neutral pH Cleaner.
4. Use a clean cloth or mop to remove the substance and cleaner from the floor.
5. Wipe or damp mop the area with clean, unheated tap water.
6. Use a disinfecting wipe as required to disinfect the area.
7. Wipe or damp mop with clean, unheated tap water.
8. Allow the area to dry completely before walking on it.

Can I put a carpet or a mat on my Marmoleum floor?

Yes, most carpets and mats are safe to use with your Marmoleum floor. Woven rugs are preferred but carpets or mats with a rubber or vinyl backing can also be used. For these types, be sure the backing is non-staining. If you're not sure, contact the carpet or mat manufacturer first.

Safety First!

Your safety is important! Carefully review all instructions, labels and safety information for all cleaning products that will be used. Read through all instructions BEFORE starting any work.

Wear protective gear such as gloves or eye protection when using any cleaning products. Pay attention when using wet cleaning processes – the floor can be slippery when wet – so limit or avoid walking on the wet floor as much as possible until it is completely dry.



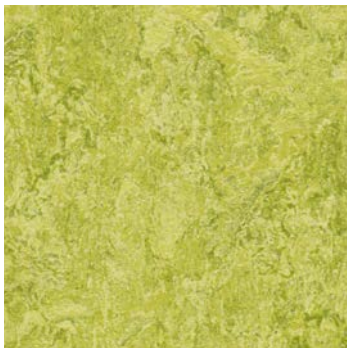
Cleaning Your Newly Installed Marmoleum Floor

Immediately after installation, you can sweep, vacuum or dust mop your Marmoleum floor. However, for Marmoleum floors that are glued down, it's important to wait at least 5 days before doing wet cleaning on the floor to make sure the glue is completely cured. For Marmoleum Click Cinch LOC, no waiting period is needed. Here are some easy steps to follow when cleaning the floor for the first time:

1. Remove all dry, loose surface soil by sweeping, vacuuming or dust mopping the floor.
2. Mix 1/2 – 1 ounce of Forbo Neutral pH Cleaner with 1 gallon of clean, unheated tap water.
3. Apply the solution to the floor using a mop or clean cloth. Do NOT flood the floor. If the solution becomes dirty, you'll want to mix a new solution so you aren't spreading the dirt across the floor.

NOTE: As an alternative, Forbo offers a pre-mixed Ready to Use Neutral pH Cleaner can be sprayed onto the floor – no dilution required.

4. Use a clean cloth or mop to remove the soil and cleaner from the floor. Rinse the cloth or mop frequently.
5. Wipe or damp mop the floor with clean, unheated tap water.
6. Allow the floor to dry completely before walking on it.
7. For the best results, dry the floor with a clean, dry mop or towel.



Regular Cleaning of Your Marmoleum Floor

The frequency for cleaning your floor will vary. It depends on things like how much you're on the floor and how much dirt it's exposed to. A good rule of thumb is if the floor looks dirty, it's time to clean it! Floors that are near your entry doors will get dirty faster, and the weather outside can affect what kind of dirt is brought into the house. Follow these simple steps to care for your Marmoleum floor:

1. Remove all dry, loose surface soil by sweeping, vacuuming or dust mopping the floor.
2. Mix 1/2 – 1 ounce of Forbo Neutral pH Cleaner with 1 gallon of clean, unheated tap water.
3. Apply the solution to the floor using a mop or clean cloth. Do NOT flood the floor. If the solution becomes dirty, you'll want to mix a new solution so you aren't spreading the dirt across the floor.
NOTE: As an alternative, Forbo offers a pre-mixed Ready to Use Neutral pH Cleaner can be sprayed onto the floor – no dilution required.
4. If necessary, use a non-abrasive scrubbing sponge to remove stubborn or ingrained dirt from the floor.
5. Use a clean cloth or mop to remove the soil and cleaner from the floor. Rinse the cloth or mop frequently.
6. Wipe or damp mop the floor with clean, unheated tap water.
7. Allow the floor to dry completely before walking on it.
8. For the best results, dry the floor with a clean, dry mop or towel.



Restoring Your Marmoleum Floor with Forbo Residential Floor Finish

How do you know if you need to restore your floor? Does the floor still appear dull or worn after you clean it? Does it seem like the floor is holding onto dirt? Is there accidental damage to the floor? Any of these can be signs that the floor needs some restoring and extra protection. You can also follow these steps if you want the floor to have an added shine. Here's how to restore the floor:

1. Remove all dry, loose surface soil by sweeping, vacuuming or dust mopping the floor.
2. Mix 1/2 – 1 ounce of Forbo Neutral pH Cleaner with 1 gallon of clean, unheated tap water.
3. Apply the solution to the floor using a mop or clean cloth. Do NOT flood the floor. If the solution becomes dirty, you'll want to mix a new solution so you aren't spreading the dirt across the floor.
NOTE: As an alternative, Forbo offers a pre-mixed Ready to Use Neutral pH Cleaner can be sprayed onto the floor – no dilution required.
4. If necessary, use a non-abrasive scrubbing sponge to remove stubborn or ingrained dirt from the floor.
5. Use a clean cloth or mop to remove the soil and cleaner from the floor. Rinse the cloth or mop frequently.
6. Wipe or damp mop the floor with clean, unheated tap water.
7. Dry the floor with a clean, dry mop or towel. Keep foot traffic and pets off the floor so it remains clean.



8. Work in small areas. It's suggested to do a 3' x 3' area at a time.
9. Apply a small amount of the Forbo's Residential Floor Finish onto the Marmoleum. Use clean, dampened mop, sponge or finish applicator to spread a thin coat of the finish on the floor. Spread the finish as even as possible and try to avoid leaving puddles of the finish. This can cause the finish to dry unevenly and look streaky.
NOTE: It is only recommended to use Forbo's Residential Floor Finish on Marmoleum. Any other finishes used can be difficult to remove or repair from Marmoleum and may even damage the floor. If any other finishes are applied to Marmoleum, it may require a professional floor care company to remove it.
10. Repeat Step 8 until the entire floor has been covered.
11. Allow 10 – 15 minutes for the floor to dry. Keep foot traffic and pets off the floor during this process.
12. If you want the floor to shine more, repeat Steps 8 – 10. Do NOT apply more than 2 – 3 coats of finish to the floor at one time. **VERY IMPORTANT!!** Once you've applied Forbo's Residential Floor Finish to your Marmoleum floor, you'll need to remove it before repeating the restoration process.



Removing Forbo's Residential Floor Finish from Your Marmoleum Floor

Depending on the size of the room, removing floor finish from your Marmoleum floor can take some time to do. Be sure that everyone in the house knows you're doing this and it's recommended to use caution when walking on the floor during this process. The floor can become slippery when wet, so take all safety precautions possible until you've completed.

VERY IMPORTANT! If you've already applied Forbo Residential Floor Finish to your Marmoleum floor, follow the steps below to remove the finish before applying any new coats:

1. Remove all dry, loose surface soil by sweeping, vacuuming or dust mopping the floor.
2. Work in small areas. It's suggested to do a 3' x 3' area at a time.
NOTE: Depending on the accessibility to the working area, you may want to work in areas smaller than 3' x 3' to avoid walking on the floor during the next several steps, as the floor will be slippery when it's wet.
3. Apply Forbo's Ready to Use Residential Floor Finish Remover on the floor. This is a pre-mixed product so you it can be applied to the floor right out of the bottle.
4. Using a sponge mop, spread the finish remover generously over the area. Be careful NOT to flood the floor.
5. Allow the finish remover to sit on the floor for 3 – 5 minutes.
6. Use a non-abrasive scrubbing sponge, pad or a soft bristled brush to agitate the floor.
7. Use a clean cloth or mop to remove the finish and solution from the floor. Rinse the cloth or mop frequently.
8. Wipe or damp mop the floor with clean, unheated tap water.
9. Allow the floor to dry completely.
10. Repeat Steps 3 – 9 until the floor finish has been removed from the entire floor.
11. With a clean mop, rinse the entire floor again with clean, unheated tap water.
12. Dry the floor with a clean, dry mop or towel. Keep foot traffic and pets off the floor so it remains clean.
13. Allow an additional 10 – 15 minutes to ensure the floor completely dry. Keep foot traffic and pets off the floor during this process.
14. If desired, 2-3 new coats of Forbo's Residential Floor Finish can be applied to the floor at this time. Refer to the previous section on how to apply the finish evenly to your Marmoleum floor.





About Forbo

Forbo is one of the largest floor covering manufacturers in the world. Our linoleum production facilities have been in continuous operation since the mid 1800's. This experience, combined with the commitment to continual research and technology advancement, is responsible for the evolution of the highest quality linoleum products in today's market.

Our Values

Our Products:

Our products and services combine design and functionality in world-class flooring solutions. We will continue to nurture our strong brands. With a strong focus on innovation, we inspire our customers to create individual interior environments.

Our People:

We create an environment that empowers, motivates and develops our people to be the most knowledgeable, skilled and dedicated in the industry.

Our Planet:

We are committed to protecting the environment and investing in a sustainable future by constantly seeking to create more environmentally friendly products and processes.

