



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

- All newly installed Altro flooring should be protected from all other trades with a nonstaining protective covering such as Masonite or Ram Board. It must be protected from foot and rolling traffic until the adhesive has fully cured. Curing times vary depending on the type of adhesive used.
- Use hardboard/plywood under heavy rolling equipment during the first week.
- Place protective coasters under heavy furniture or equipment to prevent indentation.
- Cooking equipment with heat sources within 12" of the floor should have flame guards or Altro heat deflector shields.
- Do not clean the floor until adhesive has fully cured.

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

Repair cuts and damage immediately with heat welding if possible to prevent moisture intrusion.

Typical Equipment

- Auto scrubbers – for large areas and efficient scrubbing
- Low-speed swing machines – for spot scrubbing (150–350 RPM)
- Mops – for applying detergent or cleaning spills
- Squeegees – for moving water and cleaning solutions to drains
- Deck brushes – for scrubbing stubborn soil
- Garden sprayers – for applying cleaning solutions evenly
- Wet/dry vacs – for removing water and debris

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

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, 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	altrostore.com
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Alternate products intended for sheet vinyl flooring can be used. Consult the manufacturer of the product to determine suitability.

Equipment

Altro Unipad*	altrostore.com
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Alternate equipment intended for sheet vinyl flooring can be used. Consult the manufacturer of the equipment to determine suitability.

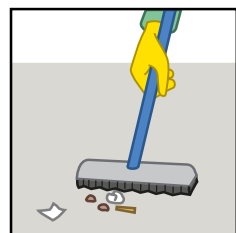
High quality cleaning chemicals and equipment ensure efficient maintenance and represent only a small proportion of maintenance costs.

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

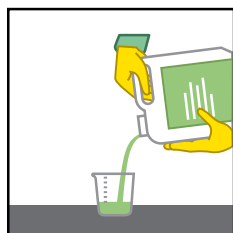
They are offered in two sizes; Manual - 4" x 14" Flat and Machine - 17" Round.

Visit us on altrostore.com to purchase cleaners and maintenance products.

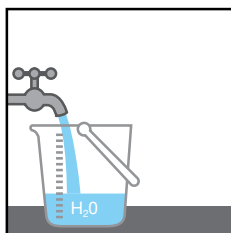
Manual cleaning



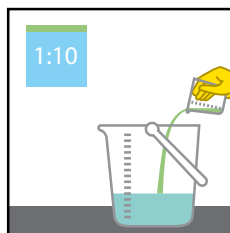
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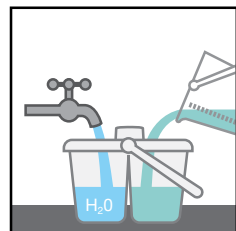
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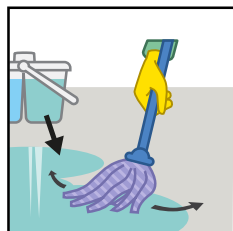
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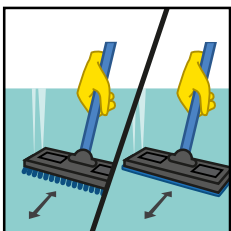
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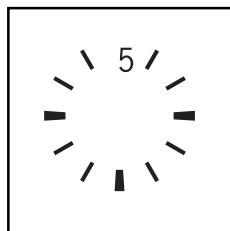
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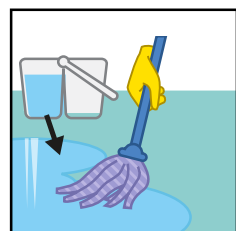
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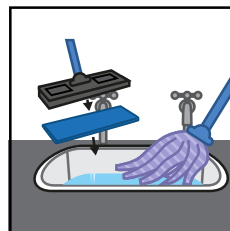
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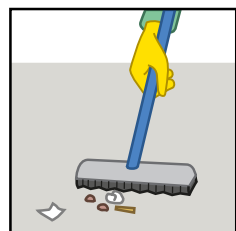


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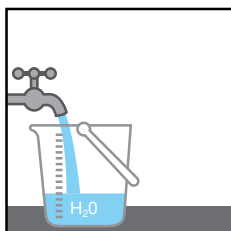
Machine cleaning



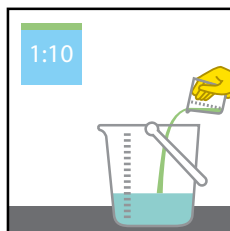
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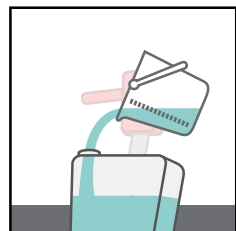
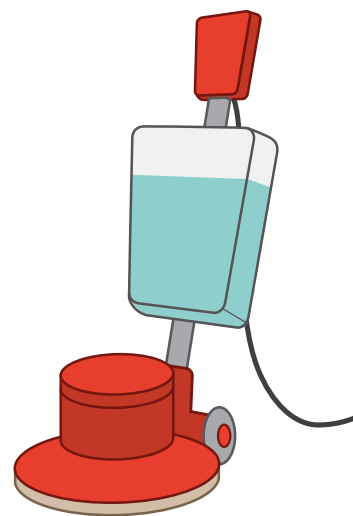
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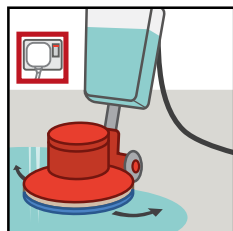
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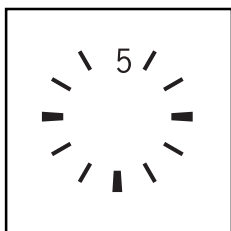
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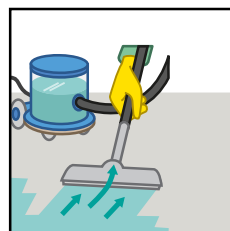
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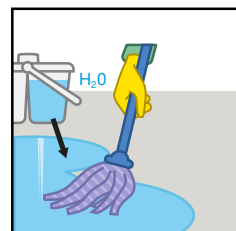
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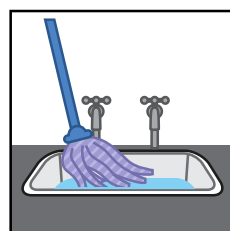
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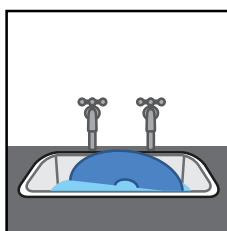
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