



For areas requiring advanced cleaning due to neglect or heavy soiling consult the Altro technical services department or [1877FloorGuy.com](http://1877FloorGuy.com)

# Maintenance guide for smooth tile floors

Altro Dolce, Altro Dolce Essentials and Altro Quartz Tile

## Initial maintenance

Note: Refrain from procedures until 72 hours after installation

1. Thoroughly sweep or vacuum the flooring to remove loose dust and debris.
2. Prepare cleaning solution with fresh, warm water and AltroClean 44. A dilution rate of 1:40 (or up to 1:10 for heavy soiling) may be used.  
**AVOID FLOODING THE FLOOR.**
3. Scrub the floor with a standard low-speed swing machine (150rpm – 350 rpm) fitted with an Altro Unipad or manually with a brush fitted with a square Altro Unipad. Scrub the floor using an auto scrubber (3 in 1 machine), standard low speed swing machine (150rpm to 350rpm) fitted with an Altro Unipad. Or manually, with a brush fitted with a square Altro UniPad.
4. Thoroughly rinse the floor with fresh, clean water and remove wash water with a wet vac. No cleaning residue should remain. Allow surface to dry thoroughly before use.
5. Apply 2 coats of sealer to the floor. This will seal the tile joints and only needs to occur once.

**Altro recommends an optional finish for continued maintenance of Altro Dolce, Altro Dolce Essentials and Altro Quartz Tile. If you are not applying finish, initial maintenance ends here.**

6. Apply finish to floor depending on product recommendations:

Altro Dolce, Altro Dolce Essentials	2 coats
Altro Quartz Tile	*0-2 coats

*\*finish is optional but preferred on Altro Quartz Tile*
7. Allow finish to become dry to the touch (45-60 minutes) in-between coats. Apply no more than 2 coats within 24 hours.
8. For additional protection or higher gloss level, apply additional coats as necessary.

## Preferred routine maintenance with finish

Highly recommended with Altro Dolce and Altro Dolce Essentials

1. Using AltroClean 44 dilution of 1:40 (or up to 1:10 for heavy soiling), manually or machine scrub the floor. Allow a few minutes for cleaner to attack surface soils before scrubbing. For an auto scrubber, ensure you are following directions outlined by the machine's manufacturer.
2. Thoroughly rinse the floor with fresh, clean water and remove wash water with a wet vac or dry mop. No cleaning residue should remain.
3. Allow surface to dry thoroughly.
4. Apply finish to floor (see initial maintenance for amount).
5. For additional protection in areas where staining agents are used (salons, labs), additional coats of finish are recommended.
6. Allow finish to become dry to the touch (45-60 minutes) in-between coats. Apply no more than 2 coats within 24 hours. Floor should be thoroughly dry before exposure to traffic.

## Optional maintenance without finish

For Altro Quartz Tile only

### Manually scrubbing / swing machine

1. Dilute cleaner and place in mop bucket. Solution consists of 1 part AltroClean 48W to 40 parts clean, warm water. For heavily soiled floors, use 1 part AltroClean 48W to 10 parts clean, warm water.
2. Mop the floor with the solution and allow a few minutes for the cleaner to attack surface soil.
3. Scrub manually or with a low-speed swing machine (150rpm – 350rpm) using an Altro Unipad or white, fine nylon pad.
4. Thoroughly rinse the floor with fresh, clean water and remove fresh water with a wet vac or dry mop. No cleaning residue should remain.
5. If a higher gloss look is desired, apply a fine spray of the AltroClean 48W dilution once the floor has dried. Buff to a shine with a white, fine nylon pad.

Additional maintenance tips can be found on the next page.



## Using an auto scrubber

1. Add cleaning solution to auto scrubber (see previous section for ratio).
2. Fit scrubber with white, fine nylon pads and scrub floor.
3. If a higher gloss look is desired, apply a fine spray of the AltroClean 48W dilution once the floor has dried. Buff to a shine using a low-speed swing machine fitted with a white, fine nylon pad.

## Maintenance tips

### Color selection

The importance of color selection cannot be overstated. Careful consideration must be given before choosing a color.

- Light colors will show more dirt and sole scuffs.
- Dark colors will show more scratching and abrasion.
- Medium tones are best in high traffic areas.
- Maintain light and dark colors using the preferred maintenance with finish protocols.

### Protect floors during construction

All newly laid floor surfaces should be covered and protected from other trades during construction with a suitable non-staining, non-taped, protective covering.

### Develop a regular cleaning program suited to traffic

Heavily trafficked, high visibility areas, or in areas where staining agents are to be used (salons, labs) your flooring will need to be cleaned more often. It will also perform better, in these areas, using the preferred maintenance with finish program and opting to add additional protective finish coats as needed. Additionally, it is also important to remove rubber sole scuffs regularly, whether by hand or with mechanical scrubber.

### Use recommended cleaning chemicals correctly

Use only preferred cleaning products. Always follow manufacturer's instructions including the correct dilution ratio. Always spot check the suitability of cleaners on vinyl floors prior to initial maintenance. Do not mix two different cleaning liquids together. Do not use cleaner containing pine oil or phenolic sanitizer.

### Scratching and abrasion

Scratching, scuffing, and gouging is a natural occurrence on all floors. It can be reduced with proper and adequate furniture rests and chair feet, proper maintenance, maintaining with finish, adequate dirt control and correct color selection.

### Dirt control

A suitable dirt excluder outside all entrances and an entry mat will help protect flooring. Mats should be regularly cleaned to maintain their effectiveness.

### Materials known to stain vinyl flooring

- Asphalt and bitumen materials
- Cardboard / hardboard (wet)
- Some fire-retardant treatments used on carpets

- 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
- Chemicals used in cleaners e.g. pine oil and phenolic sanitizer

#### Recommended cleaners

AltroClean 44	Altro, Floor Guy
Diversey Stride	Floor Guy
Profi Floor Cleaner	Floor Guy

#### Recommended sealer

Diversey Over and Under	Floor Guy
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#### Recommended cleaner/maintainer

AltroClean 48W	Altro, Floor Guy
Taski Wiwax	Floor Guy

#### Recommended finishes

Clarion 25	Buckeye International
Diversey Carefree Matte	Floor Guy
Diversey Complete	Floor Guy

#### # of coats of finish based on floor selection

Altro Dolce	2
Altro Dolce Essentials	2
Altro Quartz Tile	0-2, optional but preferred

*Additional coats of finish will be required for floors that will be maintained with high speed and ultra high speed cleaning/buffing equipment.*

#### Equipment

Altro Unipad**	Altro, Floor Guy
3M Floor Machine Pads	Floor Guy
Flo-Pac Swivel Scrub	Carlisle, Floor Guy
Deck Brush	Carlisle, Floor Guy
Taski Machines	Diversey, Floor Guy
Auto Scrubbers	Diversey, Floor Guy
Nilfisk	Advance Co., Floor Guy

#### Where to purchase cleaners / finishes / equipment

Altro	800.377.5597, altro.com
Floor Guy	877.FLOOR.GUY, 1877floorguy.com
Carlisle	888.654.8210, carlislefsp.com
Diversey	888.352.2249, taskibydiverse.com
Advance Co.	800.989.2235, advance-us.com
Buckeye International	800.321.BLUE, buckeyeinternational.com

\*\*Altro Unipads are highly preferred for cleaning Altro flooring and are available for both manual and machine cleaning.  
Manual - 4" x 14" flat, Machine - 17" round