

# Your New Vinyl Flooring

Care Instructions - Please Read Carefully

# Congratulations On Your New Vinyl

Thank you for purchasing your new vinyl from Great Choice Flooring. We do know there are other suppliers you could buy from and I want you to know we do appreciate you choosing us; we will work really hard to ensure you are thrilled with the results!

Vinyl is a hard-wearing, long-lasting, waterproof floor that is easy to clean and does not require large amounts of maintenance, making it perfect for kitchens, bathrooms and in commercial premises too.

However, it is not indestructible and it is important that the correct measures are taken to keep your new vinyl flooring from Great Choice in good condition.

## **Cleaning Your New Vinyl Floor**

How a vinyl floor is cleaned is very important.

Most spillages and stains will just wipe off quickly and easily, but some will persist, often becoming dried on the surface and then hard to remove when using just soap and water.

A variety of products may be used to deal with these, from peroxide to ice cubes, the latter being used to make some substances - like chewing gum or wax - brittle so they can be scraped up easily. A mixture of water and bicarbonate of soda can also be used to deal with yellow stains that can form from the placing of area rugs on such floors.

However, it is important to avoid certain materials and substances when cleaning a vinyl floor. Scouring powder and brillo pads should both be avoided as these can cause significant damage to a vinyl floor by scratching it.

Another issue about floor cleaning is that it should not be scrubbed for at least five days after it has been laid down, in order to allow for proper curing.

The best way of all to deal with spillages and stains is to move swiftly to clean them with a wet mop, as this means they are easier to remove in the first instance.

# Removing Stains From Vinyl Floors

Most of the time a vinyl floor can be maintained with a cleaner designed to be used on vinyl floors, but there may be times when you need something a little stronger to get the tough stains out.

Test the floor cleaner in an inconspicuous area before you use a strong chemical on your vinyl floor. An area hidden in a corner or closet will be fine for your test.

Test the rags you are using too. Some of the strong chemicals may bleed dye out of the rags. It is always best to use a plain white rag without any dye to clean the stains from the vinyl floor.

## **What Cleaners Work on Vinyl Flooring?**

Bleach is a good cleaner for tough stains such as: tomato juice, fruit juices and wine. Dilute the bleach with water in a ratio of one part bleach to four parts water. To remove the stain, soak the white rag with the bleach mixture and lay it over the stain. It may have to remain on the stain for at least an hour to completely remove it.

Alcohol is another solvent that can be used on the tough stains on your vinyl floor to remove scuff marks and tough stains. When handling these materials, use caution. Alcohol is flammable and could pose a risk if the rags are not disposed of properly.

Oxalic Acid is a good cleaner for rust stains on your vinyl flooring. You can find it in paint stores possibly labelled as wood bleach. Be sure to check the label that the product you purchase contains oxalic acid. You can often rub the stain from the

floor, but for very stubborn stains, lay the rag over the stain for a few minutes to remove it. Repeat as necessary and thoroughly rinse the floor when finished removing the stain.

# Maintaining Your New Vinyl Flooring

As well as it being possible to damage vinyl through scouring, your new vinyl flooring can also be scratched in a less obvious way by dust. In this case, each tiny particle scrapes away at the surface, making tiny indentations that collectively over time can cause the floor to deteriorate.

The presence of dust can be eliminated by using a mop or brush to sweep it away, but there are also steps that can be taken to stop the dust getting in to begin with.

A floor mat by the door to wipe shoes on can stop grit and sand - the most abrasive sort of dust - being walked into the room, while floor protectors attached to the furniture can have the same beneficial effect.

One of the great things about vinyl flooring, however, is that when maintaining it there is no problem with using water. While materials such as wood, laminate, cork or bamboo will be limited by how much they can soak up because of the problems such as swelling and expansion the same is not true with vinyl.

Although vinyl is relatively cheap and does not quite match the real thing when mimicking wood, stone or other materials, it offers a practical alternative that will need only small levels of care and maintenance.

The key is to start as you mean to go on, so do take the time to develop a regular maintenance program from the start. If your vinyl may be exposed to harsh light which may cause fading then consider using net curtains, blinds or shades.

Always avoid extreme heat such as matches, cigarettes pots and oil which will certainly damage your floor, and use floor protectors on the legs of your furniture, and check / replace as needed.

Finally, if you are having gatherings, ensure no-one wears high heels on any domestic vinyl floor since this may cause punctures in the vinyl.