

## CARE and MAINTENANCE of THERMAL-CHEM SEAMLESS FLOORS

### INTRODUCTION

Concrete floors may be coated with epoxies, urethanes or polyureas for any number of reasons. The decision to install a seamless floor may be based upon the need to protect the concrete from abrasion, impact, or chemical exposure. Or it may relate to safety, compliance with various regulations, aesthetics, image or productivity enhancements. Irrespective of the decision process, a seamless floor represents an investment and with proper care and maintenance the useful service life of the floor can be measurably extended.

Even though seamless floors are typically designed based upon anticipated usage, they will scratch, can be gouged, will often stain, soften or lose gloss if exposed to harsh chemicals, and may delaminate if subjected to severe thermal shock or exposed to conditions and usage exceeding those anticipated in the initial design. Consequently, both good operating practices and proper housekeeping routines are a must.

### GENERAL CARE

- Avoid spinning forklift tires or quick stops and starts.
- Use only rubber or poly non-marking tires. Avoid swivel steel wheels.
- Loose or protruding nails should be removed from pallets or crates.
- Avoid using equipment or tools with sharp edges.
- Clean up chemical and other spills immediately to avoid potential staining, loss of gloss and potential slip hazards.
- Refrain from dragging heavy loads or equipment across the floor surface.
- Always lift a load at least 4" inches above the floor before moving the forklift. Stop the forklift before lowering the load.
- Avoid exposing the floor to sudden temperature changes greater than its design range.
- Avoid exposure to chemicals, including chemical cleaners, until full cure is achieved (typically seven days).
- Place a protective chair pad beneath chairs with swivel rollers.



### INSPECTIONS

Regularly inspect the floor for spot delamination, chips, bubbles and severe gouges/scratches. If any of these occur, immediately contact the original installer or Thermal-Chem Corporation. Deteriorated concrete and polymer floors do not possess any self-healing powers and problems areas always get worse with time. Early corrective action of a problem may prevent a future total floor failure.

Inspect the floor for excessive wear in high traffic areas. Generally, polymer floors can be recoated with the proper surface preparation.



## CLEANING

Newly installed seamless polymer floors typically exhibit a wet glossy shine look that most often is the look end-user personnel desire to maintain. All seamless floors are subject to micro scratching from dust, dirt, sand and debris. The size and shape of the debris combined with the type of traffic experienced will determine the extent of the scratches and ultimately the “dull” look of the floor. Good cleaning procedures performed on a regular basis are a must and will substantially aid in extending the useful service life of the floor.

### Helpful Hints



- Floor texture and skid resistance is usually driven by safety and functional design. Cleaning is typically an after thought. Certainly different cleaning procedures are required for a glossy smooth thin mil coating than for a highly textured floor in a wet environment.
- Uncoated adjacent concrete floors must also be cleaned to prevent dirt and debris from being carried to the coated floor.

### Daily Cleaning

- All floors should be swept, dust mopped or wet mopped daily to remove dirt and debris. Spot clean heavily soiled areas by hand using a soft bristle broom, deck broom or floor scrubber with a green pad and an appropriate Thermal-Chem cleaner.
- Remove all black tire marks using Thermal-Chem’s **ArmorSolve**.

### Weekly Cleaning

There is no set pattern for determining the frequency of cleaning or the type of cleaning. Each cleaning depends on the traffic conditions, work activity, spillage and the effect from adjacent floors, walkways and their usage. These factors must be considered in establishing a routine program to fit the operation.

Floors should be thoroughly cleaned using a stiff broom or mop, a hand controlled floor scrubber or mechanical scrubber. For general cleaning use either Thermal-Chem’s Gator Wash or SD-20. Restaurants, auto dealerships and other areas where grease and oils are more prevalent should use Gator Wash HD, Gator Trap, Tough on Grease or Consume Micro-Muscle while food-processing plants should use Chlorinated Degreaser. Try varying dilution ratios before establishing a regular cleaning program.

Automatic floor scrubbers, which scrub and recover dirty water in one action are the most efficient and eliminate most cleaner residue typically left by hand or hand controlled floor scrubbers. Be sure and follow the mechanical floor scrubbers operating and safety procedures.

All of Thermal-Chem’s cleaners are biodegradable and safe for employees and the environment.

## Maintaining Shine or Wet Look

Polymer floors exposed to heavy traffic use, even with a regular cleaning program, will dull and lose gloss over time. The wet look and luster can be restored to polymer floors by using Sheen 17 after thorough cleaning. The glossy look is typically more important on Thermal-Chem's decorative **DecoQuartz**, **DecoFlake**, and pigmented thin mil coatings. Just apply a thin coat of Sheen 17 and lightly buff. Continue the process, 2 to 3 coats, or until the floor exhibits a deep gloss. Heavy-duty floors with heavy texture and skid resistance do not lend themselves to buffing but may be coated with Sheen 17. Be aware that heavily textured floors will not exhibit the same amount of gloss as smoother surfaces.



### Helpful Hint

The use of Sheen 17 may prevent or require considerable surface preparation should there be a need to "recoat" the floor with an epoxy, urethane or polyurea system in the future.

## MANUFACTURER

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