

## Cleaning and Maintenance of MC-Coatings

### APPLICATION ADVICE

**Introduction:** Reactive resin coatings are exposed to various loads, wear and tear during use, often resulting in pollution and staining. Due to either forklift tires or shoes of the staff, dirt is brought along from outside. Dust deposits that are carried in and dried on the floor cause additional soiling and of coating systems. Reactive resin coatings in production or storage facilities are additionally soiled by chemicals. The user and/or owner certainly aims to maintain the floor in proper condition as long as possible. Regular cleaning of the floor and use of suitable cleaning agents are the most important preconditions. The following demonstrates a cleaning concept for MC-DUR floorings in order to ensure long durability and extended use of the flooring.

**Cleaning Intervals:** After application the surface coating should be left until completely hardened. Initial cleaning should only be carried out after the specified hardening time indicated in the technical data sheets, as the required mechanical and chemical characteristics are only fulfilled after this time. First of all a basic cleaning should be carried out. Following initial cleaning regular cleaning intervals should be observed, i.e. at least one routine cleaning per month. Additionally, a thorough and intensive basic cleaning should be carried out once every six months. In addition, it should be observed that spilled goods (e.g. chemicals) are removed immediately. Generally: fresh soiling can be removed easier than an old, dried on soiling. Besides, old soiling may optically change the floor, i.e. cause discolorations or textural imperfections in the surface. Mineral soiling from shoes or forklift tyres may be "rubbed" into the floor, cause mechanical damages and result in permanently visible stains.

**Type and Source of Contamination:** Loose or non-adhering soiling can be removed manually with a tenside- or soap solution. Oil, rubber marks, grease, sticky residues etc. are removed with surfactant, alkaline cleaning agents. Cement residues can be removed using highly diluted resolving acids. Acidic cleaning agents with a high acid concentration should not be used for cleaning of reactive resin based coatings. Paint residues and similar adhesive soiling are basically removed partially using solvent-based cleaning agents. Large-scale cleaning with such agents is not recommended as changes to the surfaces of the coating cannot be eliminated. Rubber marks from pallet jacks or forklifts may cause extreme defilement of the floor. Sharp braking or sudden changes in direction result in a slipping effect between tyres and floor, damaging the surface of the floor coating. Due to the slippage of the tyres the coating becomes scratched and the rubber residues remain in the scratches. Such stubborn contamination can only be removed using concentrated cleaning agents. In extreme cases this may effect "burning" which cannot be removed anymore.

**Cleaning Equipment:** Best cleaning results are achieved with scrubber dryer machines, e.g. from Kärcher, equipped with two contra-rotating roll brushes. Initially the floor is treated wet with the equipment. Once the dirt, pollution, staining etc. is loose the foul water is exhausted using the same machinery.

**Cleaning Agents:** Cleaning agents usually consist of soil-dissolving tensides reducing the surface tension of the water. Thus the cleaning solution can penetrate and enclose the dirt and the tensides can take effect. We recommend MC-Duroprop B for cleaning. It removes tenacious stains and film residues and is ideally suitable for routine and basic cleaning.

**Cleaning:** Reactive resin floor cleaning can be subdivided into the following work steps:

- Application of the cleaning agent

Initially a diluted cleaning agent is spread over the surface to achieve evenly wetting of the floor.

- Contact period (5 - 10 min.)

Subsequently the cleaning agent should be left on for a while to penetrate thoroughly and to ensure subsequent brush cleansing can be

carried out in full effect.

- Brushing

Due to the integrated brushes of the cleaning equipment pollution is wetted more intensively and the dirt etc. is removed.

- Vacuum cleaning

Subsequently any loose dirt and foul water is exhausted using the cleaning equipment.

- Neutralisation

Finally the surfaces are rinsed with clear water, neutralised and exhausted again.

All cleaning agents must always be applied according to the manufacturer's specifications, usually in a diluted form. Following even application and a contact period of about 5 - 10 minutes, machine cleaning can commence. Thorough brushing (scrubbing) effects a high level of effectiveness and the full effect of the cleaning agent. Depending on the grade of pollution application by means of different brushes may improve the cleaning results. For larger areas we recommend to use driveable scrubber dryer machines, also in line with the procedure described above. The correct choice of brush is important for optimal cleaning. Best results are achieved with soft to medium-stiff brushes. If stiff-bristled brushes are used on strewn surfaces, dirt particles may remain in the scratches or other depressions as the stiff bristles slide over the highest peaks. The cleaned and exhausted surface must be rinsed and neutralised with clear water.

**Summary:** Lasting maintenance of coating systems is ensured by regular cleaning using scrubber dryer machines, e.g. by Krächer. The MC-Duroprop system provides easy and effective cleaning. The described techniques of cleaning are required for durable and long-term use of flooring coatings.

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