MAINTAINING A POLISHED FLOOR

Maintenance of concrete is similar in nature to any other resilient or vinyl tile floor. The goals are to maintain a high level of shine, maintain a high slip coefficient and keep the floor clean of any surface soils. To properly maintain a polished concrete floor, here are the steps that need to be taken, along with the frequencies:

TASK	PURPOSE	SUGGESTED FREQUENCY
SURFACE DUST MOPPING	To remove surface dust and dirt to reduce slip hazard, decrease surface abrasion and improve overall cleanliness	DAILY
AUTO SCRUBBING	To clean the top surface of the guard and remove dirt and stains. Using a neutral cleaner will not harm the integrity of the guard.	DAILY
HIGH SPEED BURNISHING	The heat generated by the speed and aggression of the burnisher will work to enhance shine and recondition the surface stain guard while improving the slip co-efficient	WEEKLY (Greater frequency in high traffic areas)
STAIN GUARD APPLICATION	Re-applying stain guard is necessary when the existing stain guard has worn or abraded off the floor. The reapplication of stain guard will assist in protecting the floor from future stains and abrasions.	ANNUALLY (Greater frequency required in high traffic or high precipitation areas)



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POLISHED CONCRETE BENEFITS & PROCESS

An Introductory Guide to Polished Concrete Floors



BENEFITS OF POLISHED CONCRETE

REDUCED MAINTENANCE COSTS

- No need to strip & wax or use harsh detergents
- Resistant to oil absorption, scuffs and tire marks
- Up to 30% ambient light reflection reduces overall energy costs
- High traffic areas will hold up longer when properly maintained

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

- Low VOC and allergy-free
- Aztec propane powered equipment meets all emission and safety regulations including: EPA, CARB and CE certifications
- Meets US Green Building Council LEED IAQ Credit 3.4 Requirements

HIGHLY CUSTOMIZABLE

- Many decorative options to customize your look including dyes, stamping, etching, even your own logo
- Level of gloss can be catered to the needs of the facility

POLISHING WITH PROPANE: CORDLESS AND SAFE

- Convenient cordless system eliminates need for heavy expensive generator on site
- Wet grinding is safer without 220v electric current







THE GRINDING & POLISHING PROCESS: WHAT TO EXPECT

1.) COATING REMOVAL & FLOOR PREP

Using the Aztec UltraGrind & UltraEdge with Metal Bond Diamonds, the floor is ground to a smooth and even surface. Diamond tooling varies by grit and is a similar process to sanding a piece of wood. Lower, more aggressive grits are used first to remove coatings or level high spots and gradually increased until the desired look is achieved. This process can be done wet or dry.



2.) HARDENING THE FLOOR WITH DENSIFIERS

After grinding and honing, a lithium densifier is applied to the porous concrete. This densifier reacts with the slab to increase hardness & strength, increase stain resistance and makes the surface easier to polish.

3.) POLISHING TO DESIRED GLOSS LEVEL

After the floor surface is even, flat, hardened and ready for polishing, switch to a Resin Bond Diamond. These diamonds are designed to create a mirror-like reflection to increase clarity and abrasion resistance. The concrete floor will breathe naturally compared to top coating. Higher grit = Increased shine levels.



REFRESHING THE FLOOR

Aztec's process of refreshing concrete involves using a series of lithium based products and diamond tooling to visually and mechanically restore your polished floor back to it's original polished state. Refreshing a floor becomes necessary when the visual integrity of the floor becomes compromised.

1.) PREPPING THE FLOOR

The first step is to prepare and clean the floor. Use the Aztec Sidewinder and a high alkaline cleaner to deep scour the floor to remove grease build-up, stain guard and other soils. Once the floor is clean, evaluate which grit will be needed to begin refreshing.

2.) CHOOSING THE PROPER GRIT

Concrete is restored using an ascending progression of resin bond grits. Choosing the initial grit is critical to the quality of the finished product, but involves some initial testing. Resin grits should be tested in an inconspicuous area until desired look is achieved. A lower number grit will provide a deep cut and remove a larger amount of dirt, but will increase aggregate exposure and diamond tooling cost compared to starting with a higher grit. Finishing with a high grit resin will ensure that the floor is polished before applying topical guards or sealers.

3.) PROTECTING THE POLISH

Now that the floor has been polished and restored, it's time to seal and protect the finished product. Applying a stain guard will enhance shine, increase slip co-efficient, and improve resistance to spills. Once the guard is installed and burnished, a maintenance program should be followed.