



# ElectraTile ESD Tile Maintenance

## Care and Feeding for your ElectraTile Flooring

ElectraTile is a vinyl tile used to control static electricity. Unlike many ESD tiles with a mere topical coating that renders the tile static dissipative ElectraTile contains electrically dissipative elements that run throughout the entire thickness of the Tile. As such, ElectraTile maintains permanent static control properties that last a lifetime. ElectraTile does not require a static dissipative floor finish for its conductivity but these are often used to increase the shine, improve scuff mark resistance and fill minor voids between the tiles. Dirt is the enemy of any ESD flooring material as it will raise the insulative properties of the flooring. The following maintenance procedure is designed for ease of use and for providing optimal performance for ElectraTile Flooring.

**1) OVERVIEW:** All ESD Floors materials require cleaning and maintenance. The frequency with which they must be cleaned is dependent on the amount of traffic, the cleanliness of the facility and the type of manufacturing that the tiles will encounter on a daily basis. The following general guidelines will cover the majority of applications. Frequency of the procedures may be modified to suit the environmental conditions your flooring may encounter.

**2) GENERAL:** Whenever possible use walk off mats at entrances and doorways to help reduce the amount of abrasives from dirt and grit. Wire clippings, metal shavings, nuts, bolts, sanding abrasive etc. can get ground into all types of flooring by chair casters and carts. Over a period of time these abrasives may cause deep scratches. This is especially prevalent in front of work benches. Should this type of traffic be an ongoing issue United SCP recommends the use of Titanium 40220 HSB conductive chair mats to protect the flooring. Metal chair casters and wheels are not recommended for use with ESD flooring. Nylon or soft rubber chair casters and wheels are acceptable but must be kept clean and free of embedded detritus.

**3) INITIAL MOVE IN:** Protect your ESD flooring investment during the initial loading phase. Cover the newly installed ESD flooring with Ram Board, Masonite or thick cardboard sheets prior to rolling over the new substrate with heavily loaded forklifts, man lifts etc. Remove nuts, bolts, rocks, nails etc. from the wheels of heavy equipment prior to rolling over the protective covering. Brown paper or shoe covers are recommended to protect the floor from dirt brought in by foot traffic during the initial move in phase.

**4) INITIAL MAINTENANCE:** Initial maintenance should not be performed until the flooring adhesive has fully cured. This will vary based on the temperature and humidity in the environment from 5 days to two weeks. Careful installation will have avoided the transfer of the conductive adhesive to the tops of the tiles.

Dried adhesive that has formed on top of the tiles may require the use of a safety solvent. Pretest small area to insure the solvent does not harm the tile. Cleaners containing glycol ethers (such as 409 and Soft Scrub) have been shown to be somewhat effective. Use liquids sparingly and do not over apply. Insure that the area is dry once the cleanup is completed.

**5) DAILY:** Sweep the ESD tiles using a soft bristle broom followed by a dry dust mopping. Initially use only new brooms and dust mops. Isolate these tools and use them ONLY on your ESD flooring. Do not allow them to contact oils, grease or other contaminants that may be transferred to the ESD flooring and hinder it's outstanding conductivity.

**6) AS NEEDED:** Damp Mop the flooring with ElectraClean to remove abrasives. Sweep and dust mop prior to washing to remove loose dirt and soil. For use in weekly damp mopping, use a dilute solution of 8-10 ounces of ElectraClean per gallon of warm water. For heavy duty cleaning use 12-16 ounces of ElectraClean mixed with a gallon of warm water. Using a clean high quality mop and a mop bucket with a ringer, dip the mop into the bucket and ring out excess. Mop the floor lightly, rinse mop in fresh solution repeatedly. Exchange dirty damp mopping solution with clean solution as needed.

ElectraClean may also be used in auto scrubber applications or agitated with a low speed (325 RPM) swing machine. Use the lightest pads that will get the job done without scratching the micro-finish of the tiles. Example; start with a white or champagne colored pad and, progress to a tan, red, brown or black pad only if required. After application allow the floor to dry thoroughly. There is no need to rinse. **NOTE: Never use plain water to damp mop an ESD floor.**

# ElectraTile ESD Tile Maintenance

## Care and Feeding for your ElectraTile Flooring

**7) THE USE OF ESD FLOOR FINISH:** ESD floor finish is not required for ElectraTile ESD Flooring but it is beneficial in providing a sacrificial coating that reduces the effort required to remove scuff marks and dirt. Use only ElectraGlaze ESD Floor finish should you desire this protection. ElectraGlaze is specifically for ESD flooring. Apply ElectraGlaze in 2 very thin coats. Two thin coats of ElectraGlaze will not substantially increase the floors insulative properties assuring easily compliant static control protection.

ElectraGlaze provides an increase in slip resistance and shine while filling in micro voids between the tiles making the floor easier to keep clean. ElectraGlaze may easily be removed and reapplied should ground in dirt begin to dull the finish. The typical life span of the ElectraGlaze coating is one year. ElectraTile does not normally require stripping before application of the floor finish.

**6. Application of ElectraGlaze:** NOTE: Always use clean containers and non linting finish mops or wax applicators to apply ElectraGlaze. For string style mops soak the mop to remove any impurities and rinse thoroughly. Wring out the mop as dry as possible and dip the mop into the E-Glaze. Wring out the mop so that it does not drip and apply a thin even coat of E-Glaze to the entire floor. Do not allow the mop to become dried out as streaks in the floor will result. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly. The drying time will vary depending on temperature and humidity generally taking between 2 to 4 hours. After the first thin coat has dried for at least 2 hours reapply a second very thin coat.

Always pretest to insure successful results. **Allow at least 48 hours for the finish to cure prior to washing or spray buffing.**

**8) ESD Floor Finish Maintenance:** If the floor is dirty wash the floor to remove abrasives as indicated in section 6. Allow the floor to dry.

**9) Optional Spray Buffing Operation:** For ultimate luster and removal of scuff marks high speed spray buff the pre-cleaned ESD floor using ElectraShine in conjunction with a swing machine polisher capable of turning from 1,000 to 1,500 RPM. White and Champagne colored pads are recommended and generally effective for light scuff marks.

Use more aggressive pads only if needed. Spray the scuff marks and area to be buffed with ElectraShine (do not dilute) from a standard quart bottle equipped with a pump type sprayer. Start the pad on the sprayed area and move the polisher briskly during the operation. Do not allow the pad to heat the ESD flooring. The ESD flooring should NEVER feel warm to the touch.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES:

**Direct Sunlight:** ElectraTile contains limited UV protection due to its requirements for electrical conductivity. Exposure of ElectraTile to direct sunlight at temperatures over 100 degrees may alter the dimensions and cause surface fading. Protect accordingly with drapes or blinds drawn over windows during peak hours of sunlight.

**Throw Rugs:** Some types of throw rugs are backed with latex that may harm the finish of ElectraTile flooring. Ensure that the rug supplier provides a non stain warranty prior to using throw rugs with ESD floor tiles.

**Stains:** Certain materials will stain any resilient flooring. These materials include lipstick, solvent type fluids, paste wax, fresh asphalt paving, some rubber matting, some rug padding and paint pigmentation used on exterior concrete. Dark colored asphalt tile located adjacent to or near ESD vinyl tile flooring may cause the tracking of its color onto the vinyl. United SCP Flooring must be adequately protected from contact with such materials since many of these stains are difficult to impossible to remove.

**Stiletto and High Heels:** The extremely high forces exerted by stiletto or high heeled traffic may exceed the dynamic load carrying capabilities of ESD tiles and sheet vinyl (exceeds >1,000 psi). United will not accept claims for damage caused by this type of traffic.

Initial Release: 03.12.15 Revision History:08/16/19: Removed process for cleaning Shaw 5100 adhesive 11/13/19: added secured hyperlinks End of Document
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------