

GOLDEN RULES OF POLISHED CONCRETE MAINTENANCE ©

THE Golden Rule #1: CLEANLINESS WILL DETERMINE LONGEVITY: The cleaner the floor is kept, the better the floor will function, and the longer it will last.

Dirt of any description is abrasive. Feet walking over dirt acts like sand paper scratching a mirror. Every step taken over dirt, to some degree, will scuff the finish, causing the floor to lose its luster, and over time, without a good cleaning program, may actually remove the sheen.

All other Golden Rules that follow are just supporting this rule, **The Golden Rule #1.**

Golden Rule #2 TRY TO KEEP OUTSIDE DIRT FROM GETTING INSIDE: Use Scrape-Off mats outside and Walk-Off mats inside—and KEEP THEM CLEAN!

The more dirt that can be kept from getting on the floor, the easier it will be to keep the floor clean. If the outside and inside mats are not kept clean, it's like not having them at all. Mats can catch so much dirt, that it's a wise idea to clean them at least as often as the floor—if not MORE OFTEN.

Golden Rule #3 CLEAN WATER IS THE CRITICAL MAGIC POTION IN FLOOR CLEANING: Everything else is secondary.

Water is a natural solvent that emulsifies or loosens most dirt on a floor. Once dirt becomes emulsified in water, however, the water is no longer clean. If dirty water is swabbed across a floor, it just covers the surface with hazy dirt until it is removed by rinsing with clean water.

Golden Rule #4 WASHING AND RINSING WITH DIRTY WATER JUST RE-DISTRIBUTES THE DIRT: If you don't use an Auto-Scrubber, you will need lots of mop buckets to get a floor clean.

Auto scrubbers wash with clean water and rinse with clean water. Mopping will take 10 times longer than auto scrubbing, and not do as good a job.

Golden Rule #5 ONCE THE FLOOR IS CLEAN TRY TO KEEP IT CLEAN BEFORE YOU CLEAN IT AGAIN: Dry mop between cleanings...and dry mop often.

If you can't auto scrub or clean the floor every day—or even if you can, dry mop with untreated mops between cleanings, as often as possible. Looped micro-fiber dust mops are best.

Golden Rule #6, EVEN IF YOUR POLISHED CONCRETE HAS BEEN PROTECTED WITH WATER REPELLENT, OIL REPELLENT AND/OR STAIN GUARD, DO NOT LET WATER OR OTHER LIQUIDS PUDDLE ON THE FLOOR: Remove liquids as soon as possible.

Water puddles may leave rings or marks. Worse, harsh liquids, like solvents, vinegar, soft drinks (especially colas), etc. may penetrate the protection and discolor the dye, colorant or even the natural concrete. All manufacturers tout how good their protectants are—but they protect much better—and longer—when damaging exposures are minimized.

Golden Rule #7 USE ONLY PH-NEUTRAL BASED CLEANERS, WHEN A CLEANER IS NECESSARY: Most, if not all soaps leave a film.

Ammonia, alkaline and citrus based cleaners will damage sheen and finish—especially over time. If a cleaner is needed, you may be better off using those offered or recommended by the manufacturer of your polished concrete system.

Golden Rule #8 USE DEDICATED MOPS OR CLEANING EQUIPMENT: Keep cleaning mops for cleaning and spill mops for spills.

Mops contaminated with chemicals from cleaning up spills or other uses may damage or dull polished concrete surfaces if used in general cleaning. An extra rinse will be helpful.

Golden Rule #9 NEVER APPLY ANY KIND OF TAPE (INCLUDING BLUE TAPE), FOR ANY AMOUNT OF TIME, TO DYED OR STAINED CONCRETE: Odds are good that you will either leave a permanent mark or you will lift the dye color right off the concrete.

If your polished concrete is natural, with no added color, you may be able to get away with using Blue Painter's Tape for no longer than an hour or two. Your best bet, though, is not to put tape on your polished concrete floor.

Golden Rule #10 MOST POLISHED CONCRETE FLOORS ARE WARRANTED BY THE DENSIFIER MANUFACTURER AGAINST DUSTING: Make certain all parties involved in floor maintenance have a copy of the warranty requirements.

In addition to keeping the warranty intact, by following the warranty requirements, you will actually keep your floor functioning at peak performance.