

# CONSUMER FLOORING GUIDE

Maintenance  
Information



DESIGN • QUALITY • INNOVATION

**Congoleum**<sup>®</sup>  
[www.congoleum.com](http://www.congoleum.com)

# THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING CONGOLEUM.

For more than 100 years, Congoleum has been manufacturing the finest quality flooring products for the home. Our dedication, commitment to your satisfaction, and pride in the products we produce have been an integral part of our culture and tradition.

The information contained in this Consumer Flooring Guide will provide you with easy care maintenance tips and preventive maintenance recommendations to help ensure that your new floor receives the proper care it needs to continue to look its best.

If you have any questions regarding your new Congoleum floor, need additional maintenance information or require any other assistance, please call our toll-free Customer Assistance number **(800) 274-3266**, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST.

## CARE FOR YOUR SATIN-GLOSS FLOOR

### DIAMONDFLOR®

- Follow the regular maintenance tips outlined below.
- Remove any scuffs and black heel marks with a nonabrasive polishing cleanser such as Soft Scrub®. For severe scuffs, remove with lighter fluid\* applied with a soft, clean cloth.
- Satin-gloss floors may be buffed using a mechanical buffer fitted with a lamb's wool pad to give it a shinier appearance, or simply apply Congoleum Bright 'N Easy Floor Polish (03002).
- Avoid one-step "mop and polish" products, dishwashing liquids and oil-based cleaners. These may leave a residue which can attract dirt and dull your floor's finish.

## CARE FOR YOUR MATTE-GLOSS FLOOR

### LUXFLOR®/LEGACY PLUS®/DESIGNER CAREFREE®

- Legacy Plus and Designer Carefree have a durable wear surface that features built-in resistance to soil, dust and stains. Liquids just bead right up on the surface so clean ups are easier. LuxFlor has a **Scotchgard™** wear surface for even better soil, dust and stain resistance.
- Follow the regular maintenance tips outlined below. Do not apply any polish to LuxFlor, Legacy Plus or Designer Carefree.

### A WORD ABOUT BUFFING:

- LuxFlor, Legacy Plus and Designer Carefree should never be buffed using a mechanical buffer.

**CAUTION:** Avoid cleaners that contain abrasives or solvents which may permanently damage your floor. Whenever washing, polishing or stripping floors, traffic should be excluded from the area to avoid the possibility of slipping. Place mats at outside entrances to prevent water, snow or ice from being tracked onto your floor. Water, other liquids and foreign matter on the surface can cause it to be slippery and should be removed immediately. Improper polishes or finishes can also cause slipperiness.

## REGULAR MAINTENANCE TIPS

### HOW TO PROTECT & CARE FOR YOUR FLOOR

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove dirt and grit that can abrade, dull or scratch your new floor. Do not use a vacuum with a beater brush because it may damage the floor's surface.
- Wipe up spills promptly with a damp cloth or mop.
- Wash your floor with Congoleum Bright 'N Easy No-Rinse Cleaner or other suitable resilient floor cleaner.

**CAUTION:** Some dishwashing liquids are not suitable cleaners for your floor. They can leave an oily residue which attracts soil and causes a reduction of gloss.



## PREVENTIVE CARE

### PROTECT AGAINST INDENTATIONS AND FURNITURE DAMAGE

• Always move heavy furniture and appliances with care to avoid gouging or tearing the floor. First, lay strips of plywood or hardboard panels on the floor, then “walk” or slide these items on the strips. Do not push or pull appliances and heavy furniture without taking these precautions.

• Always make sure furniture legs have floor protectors. We recommend that you:



- Replace small, narrow metal or dome-shaped glides.
- Use hard, plastic casters and cups on legs because some types of rubber casters and cups may permanently stain your floor.
- Use wide, flat casters and cups for heavy furniture.
- Use non-staining rubber-surfaced wheels that are a minimum 3/4” wide instead of metal casters.

Glides and furniture cups should be covered with felt pads. The pads should be checked periodically for grit and wear, and replaced when necessary.

**Caution:** Excessive weight on too small a caster, or continuous rubbing from a roller-type caster over the same area for a prolonged period of time may cause your floor to buckle or delaminate.

## OTHER MAINTENANCE TIPS

### STEAM CLEANERS

**DO NOT USE STEAM CLEANERS on Congoleum Floors. They can permanently damage the floor. Warranty WILL NOT cover damage caused by steam cleaners.**

### TRACKED-IN DIRT CAN BE ABRASIVE

- Place mats at outside entrances to prevent dirt, grit and soil from being tracked onto your floor. **Use 100% latex-backed mats because some rubber-backed mats or carpets may permanently stain your floor.**
- Dirt, grit and soil can abrade, dull or scratch your floor. For additional protection where these conditions exist, we recommend the use of a floor polish as part of your regular maintenance program.

### PREVENTING PERMANENT STAINS

- Wipe up spills promptly with a damp cloth or mop.
- Some carpet dyes, porch and basement paints, and asphalt driveway sealers, particularly those that are coal tar or asphalt-based, can permanently stain your floor. To help prevent staining from asphalt tracking, we recommend the use of a latex-based driveway sealer.

### FLOORS CAN BE SUNBURNED

- Draw drapes and blinds during peak periods of strong sunlight. Resilient floors, like other home furnishing products, may discolor or fade when overexposed to the sun.



### PROTECT AGAINST EXTREME HEAT

- Heat-producing appliances such as a refrigerator or range, or hot air registers emitting a direct flow of heat in excess of 120° F, even intermittently, can scorch, burn, discolor or fade your floor. Cigarettes, matches and other very hot objects can also damage your floor.

### A WORD ABOUT STILETTO HEELS

- Avoid wearing stiletto or spiked heels on your floor. These types of heels can indent or damage many types of flooring including resilient, wood and ceramic.

# HOW TO TREAT STAINS, SPILLS & SCUFFS

Follow the remedies in order. Unless instructed otherwise, use a clean cloth or towel with the recommended liquids. Always rinse the affected area with clean water after treatment.

## STAINS AND SPILLS

|                        |                        |                  |       |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Acids, Alkalis         | Dye, Dye Markings      | Iodine           | Vomit |
| Blood                  | Food, Candy            | Mercurochrome    |       |
| Ketchup, Mustard       | Fruit and Fruit Juices | Rust†            |       |
| Cleaners, Strong Soaps | Grass                  | Urine, Excrement |       |

### REMEDY

- Scrub area with Congoleum Bright 'N Easy No-Rinse Cleaner full strength.
- Rub area with a 10 to 1 dilution of water to liquid bleach.
- Rub area with isopropyl alcohol\*.

† If rust stain does not respond, use lemon juice or a cream of tartar solution.



## PAINT AND SOLVENT SPILLS

|                     |          |              |             |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| Dry Cleaning Fluids | Lacquer  | Latex Paints | Nail Polish |
| Oil-Based Paints    | Solvents | Varnish      | Wood Stains |

### REMEDY

- If substance is dry, gently peel it from the floor (avoid sharp instruments that could scratch the floor).
- Scrub area with Congoleum Bright 'N Easy No-Rinse Cleaner.
- Rub lightly with mineral spirits or paint thinner\*.

## STAINS THAT WON'T WIPE UP

|           |             |        |     |
|-----------|-------------|--------|-----|
| Adhesives | Candle Wax  | Grease | Tar |
| Asphalt   | Chewing Gum | Oil    |     |

### REMEDY

- Carefully remove excess with a dull kitchen knife.
- Scrub area with Congoleum Bright 'N Easy No-Rinse Cleaner.
- Rub lightly with mineral spirits, isopropyl alcohol\* or lighter fluid\*.

## SCUFFS & SMUDGES

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Rubber Heel Marks | Scuffs  |
| Shoe Polish       | Smudges |

### REMEDY

There are several methods for removing scuffs on satin-gloss and matte floors. For **matte-gloss floors, use recommended methods #1 and #3 only**. For satin-gloss floors, all of the listed methods for removal are recommended, depending on the severity.

1. Spray Fantastik® Cleaner on the scuff. Let stand for 10-15 seconds, and then remove with a sponge or cloth.
2. Using a damp sponge, rub scuffed area with a polishing cleaner such as Soft Scrub®, then rinse with a sponge or cloth.
3. Wipe scuff with lighter fluid\* applied with a clean cloth.
4. With a rubbing motion, apply a car polish/cleaner such as No. 7® or similar product on the area, then rinse thoroughly.
5. Remove stubborn scuffs with a mechanical buffer equipped with a lamb's wool pad.

\*Caution: Isopropyl alcohol, lighter fluid, mineral spirits and paint thinner are flammable solvents. Carefully read and follow cautionary information on label. Keep traffic off treated area for 30 minutes.

