



## SCOTCHGARD™ VINYL FLOOR PROTECTOR Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What is Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** It is not a traditional acrylic floor finish. Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector is a high-performance floor protector that utilizes nano-sized, inorganic particles that, upon curing, produce a floor surface that is up to six times more resistant to abrasion than traditional acrylic floor finishes. The hardness of the coating results in a surface that is resistant to soiling. And, Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector never needs to be stripped after application. The protector is applied with the 3M™ Easy Shine Applicator System and requires only two coats to provide stain, scuff and scratch resistance. Reduced maintenance requirements help reduce labor hours and costs typically associated with traditional acrylic floor finishes, and can result in savings of up to 55 percent on maintenance and labor costs annually. When scratches occur on a finished floor surface, they can easily be repaired by burnishing with the Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus.

**Q:** Why is Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector better than traditional acrylic floor finishes?

**A:** Traditional acrylic floor finishes are very soft and do not retain their appearance for very long. Most acrylic floor finishes become dull and dirty almost immediately. Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector is very durable and resistant to scuffs, wear patterns and scratching.

In addition, Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector:

- Helps protect the floor with a hard surface to help resist against dirt entrapment. It also resists yellowing.
- Doesn't require stripping! This is an enormous benefit to both building owners and building service contractors. This non-strip formula lets both parties benefit from significant reductions in labor cost and the disruption to floor use.
- Is easy to maintain.
- Requires less maintenance than traditional floor finishes and remains glossy over long periods of time. When the surface dulls, simply repolish by burnishing with Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus. If polishing does not restore the gloss, then a simple recoat is recommended. To recoat: Auto scrub the floor using 3M™ Blue Cleaner Pad 5300 and 3M™ Neutral Cleaner Concentrate, rinse with water, allow to dry and apply one very thin coat of Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector to the surface. After the floor has dried, typically after 20 to 30 minutes, burnish with a high-speed burnisher and Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus.

**Q:** How often do I need to burnish Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** Typically, once or twice a month, depending on traffic. When the floor's appearance begins to dull, burnish the floor using Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus.

**Q:** How often do I need to recoat the floor with Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** Typically, once or twice per year, depending on traffic. Recoat traffic areas or the entire floor as necessary with Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector using the 3M™ Easy Shine Applicator System. Be sure the floor is clean and free of marks before recoating.

**Q:** What is the shelf life of Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** The shelf life is one year.

**Q:** How do I remove Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector from the floor?

**A:** If you would like to remove the product from the floor and reapply, the Scotch-Brite™ Surface Prep Pad, used with water or 3M™ Neutral Cleaner Concentrate, will prepare the floor adequately for reapplication with Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector. If you would like to remove it completely and recoat with a traditional acrylic floor finish, use a 3M floor stripper and a 3M stripping pad. Rinse with water and allow the floor to dry thoroughly. Stripping is not required or recommended. Avoiding stripping helps make Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector a more environmentally preferable\* product.

**Q:** Is weather a factor to consider when applying Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** It's best to delay application until the likelihood of rain or other wet weather is reduced.

**Q:** What is the floor temperature range for putting down Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** Minimum floor and air temperature should be 50°F. Maximum floor and air temperature should be below 120°F. Do not store the product in temperatures above 120°F for extended periods of time, as this can cause it to coagulate.

**Q:** What about the cure time?

**A:** Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector requires 24 to 48 hours to fully cure. Avoid standing water during the first 48 hours. There are no restrictions on using an auto scrubber or flat microfiber mop, but standing water can cause a blotchy appearance. The floor can be opened to traffic after it has dried and been burnished. If you anticipate standing water in places, it is recommended that you apply a 5 percent acetic acid solution such as household vinegar to the floor using the 3M™ Easy Shine Applicator system after you have applied the second coat and burnished. Once this solution dries, burnish again with Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus. The acetic acid solution helps accelerate the curing cycle and helps make the floor resistant to damage caused by standing water and spills after the application.

**Q:** Are there certain cleaning chemicals that should not be used on this product?

**A:** Yes, the following products will damage and/or remove the coating:

- Products containing butyl (also known as 2-butoxyethanol)
- Floor strippers, surface emulsifiers/extenders, and degreasers, which usually contain butyl
- 3M products that include 2-butoxyethanol, namely:  
Most 3M™ Compublend™ II products, including:
  - 3M™ Compublend™ II Neutral Cleaner
  - 3M™ Topline Pre-Burnish Floor Conditioner
  - 3M™ Glass Cleaner (RTU)
  - 3M™ Floor Stripper (Bulk Concentrate)
  - 3M™ Rinse Free Floor Stripper (Bulk Concentrate)
  - 3M™ Neutral Floor Cleaner (Bulk Concentrate)
  - 3M™ Heavy Duty Degreaser (Bulk Concentrate)
  - 3M™ TroubleShooter™ Liquid Finish Remover

Both hydrogen peroxide general purpose and quat disinfectant cleaners are appropriate for use on this product.

**Q:** Will acidic products damage Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** Strong acids, such as hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid, will damage Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector.

**Q:** Will this product perform after freezing and thawing?

**A:** Yes, we have done several freeze-thaw cycles and have found no detrimental effects.

**Q:** If you deep scrub with the Scotch-Brite™ Surface Prep Pad, can you recoat with a traditional floor finish, even though there may be trace amounts of Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector left behind?

**A:** Yes, traditional finishes may be applied directly over Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector.

**Q:** Why doesn't Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector have to be stripped?

**A:** Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector is very hard and resistant to soiling. Unlike other traditional finishes, Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector is extremely thin and, when dry, is only about 1/3 of a mil. thick.

**Q:** Do I really need to burnish after each coat?

**A:** Yes. Burnishing after applying each coat will polish and help cure the surface, allowing for the next coat application and service. If you do not burnish after each coat, you will need to wait at least two hours between coats, otherwise the previous coat may soften and damage the finish and its appearance.

**Q:** How does Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector compare to traditional acrylic floor finishes?

**A:** Traditional acrylic floor finish is soft and allows dirt and debris to become embedded in the surface after limited foot or wheeled traffic. The gloss value of acrylic floor finishes is very high (>80) when initially installed, but reduces with wear. Most acrylic floor finishes require multiple strips and recoats per year and multiple deep scrubs and topcoats per year. Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector, on the other hand, installs in two coats. It has an installed gloss value between 55 and 80, depending on the floor condition. A simple auto scrub with a neutral cleaner and burnishing as desired is all that is needed to maintain the surface. It will remain scuff and scratch resistant for an extended period of time.

**Q:** What flooring surfaces are suitable for the application of Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector?

**A:** The product is designed for vinyl, vinyl composition, rubber, linoleum and asphalt tile floors.

**Q:** What is the best way to keep Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector looking good?

**A:** Use an auto scrubber with the 3M™ Topline Autoscrubber Pad and a neutral cleaner. Burnish as desired using a propane burnisher, battery-powered walk behind or 2,500 rpm corded machine. Because the coating is hard, it is best to use speed, weight and abrasion. Both propane and battery-powered burnishers work well. Burnishing is best accomplished using Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus. Using corded machines requires extra burnishing time. Do not use slow, weighted polishers like those used to polish stone.

**Q:** After burnishing with Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond Floor Pad Plus, burnishing "stripes" remain on the floor. How can they be removed?

**A:** Some burnishers can cause this appearance, particularly if there is not uniform pad pressure. These can be removed by burnishing with the 3M™ White Super Polish Pad 4100 or 3M™ Aqua Burnish Pad 3100.

**Q:** Does the product contain zinc?

**A:** No, Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector is zinc free.

**Q:** What type of coverage can we expect per bag of product?

**A:** Floor porosity varies significantly with the variety of resilient floor found in the marketplace. Based on these variables, we have seen coverage of up to 3,000 square feet per bag of product when used as directed with the 3M™ Easy Shine Applicator System.

**Q:** What if the customer does not have a burnisher?

**A:** Customers can still use our product but they will need to wait at least two hours between the first and second coat of Scotchgard™ Vinyl Floor Protector. Burnishing between coats helps cure the product so a second coat can be applied immediately after the first coat has dried and been burnished. Please note that the final gloss will be much lower if customers do not burnish between coats. This may be acceptable to customers that are just looking for protection against stains, scuffs and black marks or do not want a higher gloss. If a burnisher is not used after the second coat, the finish will have an increased sensitivity to water and other liquids. It is important to clean up spills immediately for the first 30 days when a burnisher cannot be used.

\* Environmentally preferable products are defined in the Instructions for Implementing Executive Order 13423, titled "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management" as products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, product, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance or disposal of the product or service.



**Building and Commercial  
Services Division**

3M Center  
St. Paul, MN 55144-1000  
www.3Mfloorprotection.com

3M, Compulend, Scotch-Brite,  
Scotchgard, TroubleShooter and the  
Plaid Design are trademarks of 3M.

Please recycle. Printed in U.S.A.  
© 3M 2010. All rights reserved.  
Rev A