

# **CLEANING TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE**

With the proper care, your Life Floor surface will provide years of exceptional safety, aesthetic, and enjoyment for your visitors. Here are a few situations you may encounter and tips to address related issues.

#### **COMMON SITUATIONS**

# Tracks are Visible from the Cleaning Equipment, Foot Traffic, or Dirt Accumulates within the Texture Grooves

Cause	Solution
Poor recovery of cleaner and dirty water	In most of these cases, the cleaner solutions and rinses are not properly recovered. This leaves not only the residual dirt, but also the cleaner which can accumulate contaminants.  Auto-scrubbers may not be able to adequately recover and in all cases a thorough rinse with a hose and squeegee is recommended.
Wrong chemical or Not following the proper dwell time	Ensure that the right cleaner is being used for the type of contaminant.  See our quick test process on the last page.







**Note:** In the last photo on the right, an auto-scrubber was allowed to sit and spin on a dry surface which caused excessive wear. Use brushes on wet surfaces only.

### Mineral Deposits Build Up on Tile Edges or in Low Areas

Cause	Solution
Poor recovery of cleaner and dirty water	If not properly recovered, these minerals will pool in lower areas or in joints.
Infrequent use of an acidic cleaner or an improper concentration ratio of cleaner	In areas where degreasers are primarily used, the mineral deposits may build up due to hard water. In this case a peroxide cleaning will remove the majority of film build-up. In troublesome areas, use the mineral deposit remover. Use all cleaners with proper precautions.





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#### WHICH CLEANER IS RIGHT?

The primary cleaner will depend on your type of contaminant.

Acidic soils or oils will require an alkaline degreaser while alkaline deposits like minerals, organics, or soaps will require an acidic cleaner such as peroxide. Acidic soils tend to be darker in color while alkaline deposits tend to be lighter in color.

#### Wet Test on a Troublesome Area

In this example there was a significant build-up of what appeared to be primarily alkaline contaminants and organics due to insufficient recovery and possibly the usage of the wrong cleaner or concentration.

A trial is set up on a dirty area with 3 different acidic cleaner concentrations and 1 degreaser. Cleaners are mixed and diluted in cups or spray bottles, then poured on the test areas, and allowed to dwell for at least 5 minutes.

Each section should be adequately scrubbed with a handheld brush until all areas of the texture are foamed.

A clean terry cloth towel is then used to wipe the wet area to determine if the cleaner is breaking the bond between the contaminant and the surface. You want the chemical to break the bond to minimize the amount of scrubbing required. This is a good test of which chemical will work best for this situation.

#### **Dry Test on a Troublesome Area**

If the surface looks clean, but starts tracking again after cleaning, you have either not scrubbed or recovered enough to fully remove the contaminants. This may require a more thorough rinse especially when relying on an auto-scrubber.

#### Test to Determine if Contaminants Remain on a Dry Surface

Rub the stiff edge of a thin rigid object (example: the dull spine of a knife blade) gently across the surface and note if the surface changes color. In this case the surface looked clean, but the auto-scrubber was not fully recovering the cleaner in this low area. A thorough rinse following another scrub solved this issue.







