

Ucrete® Cleaning and Maintenance

Introduction:

Floors made from all grades of Ucrete are hard, impervious, non-absorbent and non-dusting. This ensures not only their durability, but ease of cleaning when a suitable cleaning regime is used. The cleaning and maintenance of a Ucrete floor must be considered a vital and integral part of an overall hygiene regime covering all parts of a food processing unit. Ucrete floors have proved to be both cleanable and sanitizable with regard to micro-organisms. Below are items to be addressed to help maintain and provide utmost longevity and best performance of an installed Ucrete floor.

Cleaning:

Post Contract Cleaning:

Ucrete floors are frequently installed at an early stage during new or refurbishment projects. The floors may be subjected to types of usage very different from those expected during service. These include:

- Heavy lifting equipment
- Movement of heavy cumbersome machinery
- Spillage of paints, mastics, sealants, etc.
- Hot work

Because of this, it is important to consider the following very carefully:

- The installation of temporary covers of a plastic material, for example polyethylene sheeting, and hardboard if other trades are to work in the area.
- The avoidance of early heavy usage, particularly with rubber-wheeled vehicles. This will minimize risk of dirt being embedded into surface of the floor before it reaches full hardness. A period of 48 hours is advised at lower temperatures before full service is permitted. When cleaning the floor prior to its being put into intended service, more aggressive cleaning chemicals than normal may be used. These typically will not damage the floor, but the use of proprietary paint strippers containing caustic alkalis and chlorinated hydrocarbon solvents should be avoided as they can bleach and discolor the floor surface.

In-Use Cleaning:

Specialized floor-cleaning equipment is as widely available as the variety of cleaning chemicals and bactericides used with it. **Your choice of Ucrete floor does not restrict your choice of cleaning regime, equipment or chemicals, with the exception of Phenol.** Phenol based cleaners may discolor the Ucrete. Please refer to Chemical Resistance Chart for further information.

Floor Cleaning Equipment:

The choice is quite wide and includes: rotary scrubbers driers, mobile scrubber brushes, rotary scrubbers, high pressure/low volume spray and low pressure/ high volume spray. Natural bristle brushes give the best performance.

When selecting equipment, consider the following criteria:

- Relate the method to the "soil" type; what is suitable for wet "soil" in a meat preparation area may not be suitable for a "dry" soil in a bakery.
- Relate the method, and frequency, of cleaning to the risk status of the area; all methods may be suitable in a finished goods warehouse but not in a high risk area such as chilled food preparation.
- Methods suitable outside of production hours may not be appropriate during production; be aware of risk of aerosol generation.

Most cleaning equipment manufacturers have specialist knowledge and offer practical demonstrations of equipment. **You are advised to consult them.**

Cleaning Materials-including bactericides:

The variety of cleaning chemicals and bactericides available is extensive and making the appropriate selections can be confusing. The correct choice of chemicals is important, and you are strongly advised to seek specialist advice.

Maintenance and Repair:

Even the most assiduously cleaned Ucrete floor may suffer damage to its integrity by some unforeseen incident in the workplace, which could result in a consequential risk of bacteriological build-up in cracks, etc. Regular inspections should be performed throughout the life of the flooring system to determine that no damage has occurred.

If this situation arises, the damaged Ucrete floors should be repaired without delay. Consult your specialist applicator, whom has the in-depth knowledge of the remedial techniques that will restore your Ucrete floors to its original pristine condition.

Good standards of industrial hygiene can only be maintained if the integrity of your Ucrete floor is complete.