

Armstrong

Care and Maintenance of Genuine Linoleum Floors

Stripping Polish from Genuine linoleum

Stripping polish is messy and time consuming and the procedure that people either fear or dislike the most when it comes to floor care. Fortunately, if the routine maintenance of the floor is correctly done, stripping is rarely needed. The usual reason for stripping is that routine maintenance can no longer produce an acceptable appearance for the floor. This will likely include a darkened cast to the colors and an obvious lack of clarity to the pattern. Both of these characteristics are caused by dirt and floor cleaner residue that gets trapped under periodic coats of polish. How long it takes for these characteristics to reach the point where stripping is required will depend on the efficiency of routine care and the individual's perception of the floor's appearance. Some stripping detergents can damage linoleum, so, it's very important to use a stripping detergent designed specifically for use on genuine linoleum. Stripping detergents are alkaline to break down the structure of the floor polish. Alkalinity, however, can cause serious damage to linoleum by weakening its structure and causing permanent discoloration. Properly formulated linoleum polish strippers, such as Armstrong Genuine Linoleum Floor Stripper, achieve the necessary alkalinity in a way that won't damage linoleum unless all of the instructions and warnings are ignored.

- Mix the Genuine Linoleum Floor Stripper according to the directions below. Making the solution stronger than recommended is wasteful and making it weaker is inefficient.
- Apply the stripping solution liberally to a manageable area of 3-4 feet square. Applying the stripping solution to a larger area can delay the scrubbing step long enough to allow the solution to dry before the area is scrubbed causing incomplete stripping and a need to strip the same area again. If the floor has a lot of polish accumulation, it may need to be stripped more than once to remove it all. Finding a linoleum floor with that much polish on it is not unusual, however, heavy polish accumulation is usually found in limited areas with little traffic, not over the entire floor.
- After the stripping solution has been spread liberally over the area to be stripped, allow the solution to soak for 5 minutes. This reduces the scrubbing effort required by allowing the solution to soften the polish. The polish becomes milky as it softens, so it's easy to determine when it's time to begin scrubbing.
- Scrub the floor vigorously with a scrub brush or scrubbing pad. Then, take up the stripping solution and polish residue with a damp mop.
- Immediately rinse the stripped area with clear water and a clean mop. Then take up the rinse water with the damp rinse mop.
- The bucket of stripping solution will eventually contain so much old polish residue that it must be replaced with fresh solution. If it is not replaced with fresh solution, the old polish residue will be redeposited on each new spot that is stripped. This requirement also applies to the rinse water for the same reason.
- When a genuine linoleum floor is properly stripped its color should look somewhat faded and its gloss uniformly dull.

After stripping your genuine linoleum floor, apply fresh polish as described above.