



PERFECT PREPARATION OF FLOORS

Before the application of Dr. Schutz surface finishes

SAFE PREPARATION OF FLOORS

Before the application of Dr. Schutz surface finishes

① GENERAL

Surface coatings, whether permanent finishes or care films, can only deliver good results if the subsurface has been professionally prepared. Should the coating not adhere properly, then the consequences can be delamination and/or poor mechanical or chemical endurance. For the process of coating there is a distinction and relation between wetting and adhesion. By well wetted we refer to an entirely closed wet film. This is necessary so that the remaining dry film also entirely covers the whole subsurface. To wet the surface well, it is necessary to thoroughly remove any water-repelling substances (e.g. waxes, silicones, etc. ...) by wet cleaning, leaving it free of any residues. Poor wetting can be recognized when the liquid seems to shrink on the surface („forming islands“), which reveals non-wetted spots. The adhesion of coating to the subsurface is the key to how the layer is anchored to the surface. This can be attributed to a chemical reaction with the surface, and/or to a mechanical embedding in the roughness of the surface. For this purpose the surface must also be carefully cleaned beforehand in order to enable the coating to adhere. Roughening by sanding, respectively abrading with a sanding pad for mechanical embedding is necessary on smooth surfaces, hardened coatings, or particularly on factory-applied permanent coatings. Typically abraded surfaces are also easier to moisten. In the case of renovation, always begin by carrying out strip-cleaning. For newly laid floors only strip-clean when dealing with removable factory-applied residues or finishes. As the result is heavily dependent on workmanship, it is clear that the responsibility for the result lies with the applicator doing the work. In this respect it should also be emphasized that various surfaces require different intensities of preparation. Therefore the treatment of the surface must be carried out with expert knowledge and experience. Before strip-ping and cleaning, the floor must undergo an expert assessment, if nothing specific is known about its condition. The likelihood of the subsurface being damaged by water and chemical cleaners, as well as by mechanical work, must be included in such an assessment. Depending on the degree of damage probability, such reservations should be made known. In the following you will receive guidance as to how these requirements for coating floors on the building site can be safely fulfilled. Please note that mistakes in pretreatment, especially with permanent coatings, can only be corrected with a great deal of time and trouble, if at all.

② NEW FROM 2017

Abrading the surface before applying permanent sealers (e.g. PU Sealer/ Waxnomor, PU Anticolor/Marknomor, PU Color/ Colorize) and hard sealers (e.g. Secura, Ultra High Shine, Medica) is decisive for subsequent good adhesion. Until now the Dr. Schutz PU Renovation pad was recommended for this purpose as the best and also the most relevant abrasive for the systems. Further developments in floors and our own developments in the field of abrasives have prompted us to adapt our recommendation relevant to the systems. From June 2017 we recommend the systems-relevant abrasive Dr. Schutz Abranet ACE for smooth surfaces, as well as Dr. Schutz Abranopp extreme for structured surfaces. Both these abrasives are even more effective and safe than the PU Renovation pad and additionally have a longer lifetime. What is more, the flooring professional has very good control of both new abrasives when the abrasive is worn out. And there is another advantage with regard to safety; after sanding the surface of the old floor, or of a newly laid floor without a removable factory-applied finish, the matted surface is easily recognized as whitish.

③ PRE- & POST-TREATMENT

As a pre-condition for coating, the floor surface must be clean and dry, free of dust, grease, oil, wax or care-product remnants, or removable factory-applied finishes. In the case of subsequent permanent sealing, the entire floor must be sanded to becoming matt. The result must be professionally assessed. The dry floor can then be treated with the selected Dr. Schutz Permanent sealer (e.g. PU Sealer/ Waxnomor or PU Anticolor/ Marknomore), or with a Dr. Schutz Care film (e.g. Secura Mat Hard Sealer). We recommend a slowly running monodisc machine (150 rpm, e.g. **Dr. Schutz SRP1**), using **Dr. Schutz Grit-brushes** or suitable pads and Dr. Schutz abrasive materials. The effect of the machine can be enhanced by using additional weights. For mopping up the dirty liquid from cleaning, we recommend a wet-suction vacuum-cleaner (e.g. **Dr. Schutz Wet Suction Cleaner PS27**). Drying the floor is supported by good ventilation. Heating or working with fans (e.g. Dr. Schutz Dry-Fan TG1) accelerate the drying process.

3a) Pre-treatment before coating newly laid floors without removable factory-applied finish. Here chemical strip-cleaning is not required. It is enough to sand the floor wet after laying the floor, using **Dr. Schutz PU Cleaner/ Schutz Cleaner** mixed in a ratio of 1:200. Use Dr. Schutz Abranet ACE (for smooth surfaces) or **Dr. Schutz Abranopp extreme** (for structured surfaces). Subsequent neutralisation is also not necessary. Vacuum up the dirty liquid after sanding and then mop the floor with clear water.

3b) Pre-treatment on all old floors and on newly laid floors with removable factory-applied finish. Old floors and newly laid floors with removable factory-applied finish must first be carefully strip-cleaned before being treated with coating materials. In addition, when sealing with permanent coatings the floor must also be sanded back.

Strip-cleaning:

Use **Dr. Schutz Clean and Strip/ Schutz Stripper** (medium alkalinity, all floors) for the gentle removal of care-product remnants. **Dr. Schutz Turbo Strip** (medium alkalinity for PVC, rubber after a work sample), which during wet cleaning also effectively softens thicker layers of dispersion care-film and make removing them easier with a brush or pad. The concentration of cleaning material applied in the solution depends on the substances to be removed. Recommendation: start with 5 parts water to one part cleaner, then as required in a higher concentration up to pure cleaner. Coating with the cleaning solution takes 150-250 ml/m². We recommend allowing the solution to soak in for 10 minutes, even longer in difficult cases. Please ensure that the areas with strip-cleaning solution must always be kept moist. Any dry patches are to be avoided. When using these cleaners keep them at a distance from adjoining fixtures and fittings, so that they do not damage their surfaces. The edge areas must be carefully worked on by hand. The strip-cleaning solution dissolves dirt or soluble care-films particularly effectively with the assistance of Dr. Schutz Grit-brushes. Our standard recommendation is for the blue grit-brush, in the case of more pronounced, or more deeply structured surfaces we recommend the finer red grit-brush. The advantage of the grit-brush is its wide range, minimal wear and its insensitivity against cleaning chemicals used. The use of green pads is also very common, however the lifetime of one pad can be very short in individual cases and it must be frequently exchanged. When the pad ceases to have any effect, because it is worn out by the subsurface, or because care-products or dirt have clogged it up, it must be replaced by a new pad.

Post-treatment (Neutralisation):

Finally the surface is carefully and repeatedly cleaned and neutralised with clear water. If you intend to use a permanent sealer, neutralisation should take place with the aid of Dr. Schutz Abranopp

extreme for structured, or with Dr. Schutz Abranet ACE for smooth floors. Thereby the cleaning product remnants are mobilised and the surface is wet-sanded at the same time, so preparing it perfectly for the sub-sequent sealing. With Abranet ACE we recommend grain 150. In cases with high resistance to sanding a coarser grain can be used, whereby a finer sanding might later be necessary to counter sanding grooves.

When applying initial care with Dr. Schutz Floor Cleaner R1000 a red pad is used to neutralise the floor.

④ PLEASE NOTE

- Whether a chemical strip-cleaning of the floor is necessary can also be ascertained by selective treatment with **Dr. Schutz Elatex/ USR Universal Stain Remover**. If, after about one minute's soaking into the floor, this leaves a mark after wiping it down, then this means that removable coatings exist and, particularly before permanent sealing, these must be properly removed. This test should be repeated after strip-cleaning, in order to establish whether everything has been removed.
- When using alkaline strip-cleaners the result of neutralisation can be evaluated with a universal-indicator-paper, which is judged to be good when the pH value of the solution is lower than 8. Please note: at the same time the indicator-paper can also be laid on moist joints to check neutralisation locally.
- When abrading the floor, this must result in sanding and not polishing! Fast-running machines lead more easily to a polishing effect. High-speed monodisc-machines are therefore not suitable. Sanding is done with sharp abrasive materials, while blunt or clogged abrasives are used for polishing. A polished surface has exactly the opposite effect from what is desired, as it is then more closed than before, while what is wanted is that the surface becomes opened by sanding. Therefore the lifetime/worn condition of abrasive materials is to be assessed critically during their application.
- Any floor which cannot be sanded should also not be sealed permanently.
- Linoleum must principally be tested beforehand as to whether it has colour-fast retention, by testing on an inconspicuous area, in order to rule out any discoloration resulting from using abrasive materials, brushes or strip-cleaning materials.

- If the appearance of the floor is unacceptably changed by strip-cleaning or sanding, then it can be covered with Dr. Schutz PU Color lacquer/ Colorize, if required with creative elements, which offers interesting possibilities to enhance renovation.
- Bear in mind that especially joints and the corners of rooms need longer drying times. When using chemically cross-linked surface products, the surface **MUST** be completely dry beforehand.
- When considering structured surfaces, the possibility of preparing the surface should be judged according to the type of floor. Of course all of the general notes above also apply within "structural valleys", which are typically difficult to reach with a monodisc-machine. In the case of slight structures, when abrading with a strip-cleaner we recommend using a grit-brush with a high and deep structure (e.g. **Dr. Schutz Grit-brush** blue or red) and in the neutralisation stage using abrasive materials or a pad, as mentioned above. The more pronounced the structure is formed, the greater the skill and expert knowledge required by the professional.
- Before strip-cleaning click-floors or loose lay vinyl floors contact our Technical services, because in such cases the approach to be taken depends on the type of floor and not all types can be approved for such treatment.
- If the expected safety of application for the treatment of the surface is not beyond doubt, in such cases always do a trial area beforehand.
- You can find application guides for individual floors and with reference to situations in different buildings on our homepage under www.dr-schutz.com.
- The Product Information and Safety Data Sheets of the above named products are to be taken into account.



ABRANOPP EXTREME
 Ø = 406mm
 Item-No. 8000926100



ABRANET ACE
 ø = 406 mm, grain 150
 Item-No. 8000928100

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PERFECT PREPARATION OF FLOORS

■ System-relevant preparation measure ■ First recommendation for best results ■ Second recommendation

	Linoleum ³		LVT, PVC smooth floors (heterogenous/ homogenous)		Rubber smooth floors		Rubber structured floors e.g. studded		LVT, PVC structured floors (heterogenous/ homogenous)		Wood floors raw	Wood floors lacquered/ coated		Wood floors oiled/ waxed		All Floor coverings deep and very fine structures ⁷		
Strip-cleaning regular	Grit-brush blue	Superpad green	Grit-brush blue	Superpad green	Grit-brush blue	Superpad green	Grit-brush blue		Grit-brush blue	Superpad green			Superpad green	Superpad red	Superpad green	Superpad red	Grit-brush red	Grit-brush blue
Strip-cleaning thick an hard care product layers	Grit-brush violet	Superpad green ⁵	Grit-brush violet	Superpad green ⁵	Grit-brush violet	Superpad green ⁵	Grit-brush violet	Superpad green ⁵	Grit-brush violet	Superpad green ⁵								
Day-to-day Cleaning	Superpad red		Superpad red		Superpad red		Grit-brush red		Grit-brush red				Superpad red		Superpad red		Grit-brush red	Superpad red
Cleaning by Machine	Superpad red		Superpad red		Superpad red		Grit-brush red		Grit-brush red				Superpad red		Superpad red		Grit-brush red	Superpad red
Spray-Cleaning	Superpad red		Superpad red		Superpad red		Polishing brush	Superpad red	Polishing brush	Superpad red			Superpad red		Superpad red		Polishing brush	Superpad red
Polishing	Superpad white		Superpad white		Superpad white		Polishing brush	Superpad red	Polishing brush	Superpad red			Superpad white		Superpad white		Polishing brush	Superpad red
Neutralization sanding	Abranet Ace ⁶		Abranet Ace ⁴		Abranet Ace ⁴		Abranopp extreme		Abranopp extreme									
Sanding back before OnTop coating	Abranet Ace ⁶		Abranet Ace ⁴		Abranet Ace ⁴		Abranopp extreme		Abranopp extreme			Abranet Ace ¹ + Interface-pad						
Sanding between lacquer coats												Abranet Ace ¹ + Interface-pad						
Fine sanded finish											Abranet Ace ^{1,2} + Interface-pad							
Working in oils/waxes															Normal- pad beige	Superpad green + Superpad white		

¹Sanding grain should be chosen according to its purpose, e.g. grain 120 for sanding between coats of lacquer.

²With the Dr. Schutz Satellite-disc for best surfaces.

³In principle, linoleum must always be tested beforehand to ensure its colour-fast retention in an inconspicuous spot, in order to eliminate any possibility of discoloration through using abrasive materials and brushes.

⁴In the case of homogenous floors, for example with badly scratched surfaces, pre-sanding with grain 80 or 120 can significantly improve the

surface texture again, and remove or diminish scratches. Here the best results can be achieved with the Dr. Schutz Satellite-disc. With this method the finishing touch must always be carried out with 150 abrasive grain. No grade of grain should be omitted. The sanded look must be judged by a professional specialist at the end of the sanding work.

⁵In the case of stubborn and thick layers and when removing defective permanent coatings, the High Performance Pad can be used. Beforehand it is absolutely necessary to test whether the floor is suitable for such

extreme treatment. If used wrongly this can lead to irreversible damage to the floors affected.

⁶If you do not want to sand back the linoleum, or if it is not possible without discoloration, then after strip-cleaning and neutralization, the final coating to be applied should be exclusively with a conventional hard sealer, e.g. Secura, which is recommended.

⁷For floors such as brushed parquet, deep joints/V-joints, LVT with accentuated stripes, etc.

Without exception the respective Product Information must be heeded, as well as taking into account the special Technical Information relating to the topic in question.