



Maintaining the Maple Sports Floor

Daily, Annual and Periodic Maintenance Recommendations

The MFMA has publishes recommendations for the proper care and maintenance of your maple sports floor on a daily, annual, and periodic basis. This document summarizes the various procedures inherent to the care of the floor and when they should be implemented.

DAILY FLOOR CARE

Six Steps for Proper Daily Maintenance:

- SWEEP THE FLOOR DAILY with a properly treated dust mop. If the floor is used heavily, sweep it up to three times per day.
- WIPE UP SPILLS and any moisture on the floor surface.
- MAKE SURE THE HEATING/VENTILATING/AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM IS FUNCTIONING PROPERLY and set to maintain indoor relative humidities between 35 percent and 50 percent year-round. In areas of consistently high or low outside humidity, a 15 percent fluctuation will not adversely affect the maple.
- REMOVE HEEL MARKS using an approved floor cleaner applied with a soft cloth or a dust mop. Contact your floor finish manufacturer for approved cleaning products.
- INSPECT FLOOR FOR TIGHTENING OR SHRINKAGE. During wet weather, check for water leakage around doors and windows. Remove debris from expansion voids.
- ALWAYS PROTECT THE FLOOR when moving heavy portable equipment or lifts. Ensure portable equipment does NOT have crowned wheels or wheels that include center ridges remaining from the molding process. These types of wheels can create very significant point loads. The MFMA recommends contacting your sports floor contractor or the MFMA Technical Department for proper floor protection procedures when heavy loads such as scissor lifts, pallet jacks or other heavy point load objects are in use on the floor.

Never Do the Following:

- NEVER shut down the ventilation system in your facility for a prolonged period of time.
- NEVER clean your MFMA floor using scrubbing machinery or power scrubbers that use water. Water is your floor's worst enemy!
- NEVER attempt to modify or repair your MFMA sports floor without first consulting your MFMA contractor.
- NEVER use household cleaning products or procedures. They can be harmful to the floor finish and to the wood and may leave floors sticky or slippery, and potentially harmful for athletes. Your MFMA finish manufacturer will recommend the proper cleaning and maintenance materials for your MFMA sports floor.

Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association

Toll Free: 888/480-9138

E-mail: mfma@maplefloor.org www.maplefloor.org

Wood is naturally porous and can absorb and release moisture. If the humidity in your facility rises, your wood floor will absorb that moisture, causing it to expand. If the humidity falls, your wood floor will release moisture, causing it to shrink. Many installations include expansion voids around the perimeter and around columns or floor inserts, plus expansion joints built into the floor surface. These features permit natural, normal expansion and contraction without damage to the floor. Too much moisture causes abnormal expansion, which can lead to cupping or buckling of your floor. In abnormally dry conditions the wood will contract, leaving separations between flooring strips.

Direct all questions about your MFMA maple sports floor to your [MFMA SPORT FLOOR CONTRACTOR](#).

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE/REFINISHING

To preserve the beauty and life of your maple floor, the MFMA recommends that recreational surfaces receive periodic refinishing. Facility use, abuse, and maintenance will determine the appropriate refinishing schedule. Most gymnasium floors should be recoated annually.

Using a properly treated dust mop, thoroughly clean the floor. Before abrading the maple surface, walk the entire area to ensure that all foreign matter has been removed. Disk the floor with a fine grit screenback or steel wool to abrade the top layer of old finish. Do not use steel wool if applying a water-based urethane product. Touch up any game line paint or markings if necessary, and lightly abrade those areas when dry. Tack rag the entire surface until it is thoroughly clean, paying particular attention to edges and corners. Apply an even coat of finish in accordance with the finish manufacturer's instructions. Allow to thoroughly dry.

Note: If recoating your maple floor on a biannual schedule, application of additional coats of finish may be necessary. See notation under "Finishing" for other precautions to assure long life and excellent performance.

COMPLETE RESURFACING OF EXISTING MAPLE GYMNASIUM FLOORS

From time to time, even the most meticulously cared for maple gymnasium floor should receive a complete resurfacing. Resurfacing restores the luster in an older gymnasium surface and assures long life and excellent performance. The frequency of complete resurfacing is dependent on many factors, but typically is performed about every eight to ten years.

A complete resurfacing is accomplished by first removing all layers of finish and game lines down to raw wood. Next, repair/replace any split boards or seriously damaged areas of the surface or subfloor. The maple surface is then ready to be lightly sanded to remove accumulated minor dents and scratches. Once the sanding process is completed, the resurfacing process follows the same general sealing, court lining and finishing procedures used during the initial installation of the maple flooring system.

As subfloor designs are significantly different from floor to floor, MFMA strongly recommends consultation with an [MFMA SPORT FLOOR CONTRACTOR](#) member prior to the initiation of any complete resurfacing project.

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