

FLEXGROUND STANDARD . ENDURAFLEX . ULTRAFLEX POURED IN PLACE

MAINTENANCE MANUAL

KEEP LOOSE DEBRIS OFF

Loose debris such as sand, dirt, and small stones on top of poured in place surfaces can produce slip hazards. It is recommended that a regular periodic removal of this loose debris be done. It is best to vacuum porous surfaces to clear the permeable openings as to remove top litter. Blowing can also be an effective means of achieving this. Dry sweeping or scrubbing will remove the loose litter, but can force more fine particles into porous openings of some surfaces. This should be done at least every two-three weeks, but may be necessary more often if local conditions warrant.

CORRECT CLEANER FOR DEPOSITS

It helps to use the right cleaner to remove problem deposits or spills on unitary surfacing. Here is what is recommended for the following problems on unitary surfacing:

BIRD DROPPINGS OR OTHER EXCREMENT:

Do not attempt to loosen any dry excrement that is stuck to the surfacing; this could cause disease-causing fungus in the deposition to become air-borne. Wear disposable gloves. Remove any loose excrement. Scrub deposits with dampened Bon Ami™, Borax™ or STPP and then wash with a Borax™ or STPP solution. Soak up residue with disposable rags. Disinfect by spraying on hydrogen peroxide and let stand for at least two minutes, then spraying again with vinegar and let stand for at least two minutes. (Do not mix these together; spray separately for best results.) Soak up residue with disposable rags.

Double rinse with clean water

BLOOD:

Wear disposable gloves. Remove and disinfect by spraying on hydrogen peroxide and let stand for at least two minutes, then spraying again with vinegar and let stand for an additional two minutes. Soak up residue with disposable rags. Double rinse with clean water

CHEWING GUM:

Apply dry ice (regular ice isn't as effective) to freeze the gum and chip it from the surface and remove it.

GASOLINE:

Wash with a detergent and water. Soak up with disposable rags. Double rinse with clean water.

GRASS STAINS:

Apply orange oil cleaner. Work in and soak up with disposable rags. Double rinse with clean water

MOSS/ALGAE/MILDEW/MOLD:

Saturate with hydrogen peroxide and let stand for at least five minutes. Repeat using vinegar. Soak up with disposable rags. Double rinse with clean water

SCUFF MARKS:

Scrub with dampened Bon Ami™, Borax™, or STPP. Double rinse with clean water

SODA OR JUICE:

Saturate with Formula 407™. Work in and soak up with disposable rags. Then wash with a liquid detergent, Borax™ or STPP solution. Double rinse with clean water

TAR/CRAYON/LIPSTICK/TREE SAP/MOTOR OIL/GREASE:

Apply one or more of the following: orange oil cleaner, Goop™, or Formula 407™. Work in and soak up with disposable rags. Then scrub with dampened Bon Ami™, Borax™ or STPP. Double rinse with clean water

URINE/VOMIT/NASAL DISCHARGE:

Wear disposable gloves. Wash with a Borax™ or STPP solution. Soak up residue with disposable rags. Disinfect by spraying on hydrogen peroxide and let stand for at least two minutes, then spraying again with vinegar and let stand for an additional two minutes. (Do not mix these together; spray separately for best results.) Soak up residue with disposable rags. Double rinse with clean water

AVOID HARMFUL SOLVENTS AND CLEANING PRODUCTS:

The following are effective cleaning agents but they are NOT recommended on most unitary safety surfaces. They may be detrimental to the surfacing because, over time, they could break down the polyurethane binding component and may lead to de-plasticization of the rubber. Most are not environmentally friendly. Some also change the appearance of the cleaned area compared to the rest of the surface, or make the surface very slippery:

- ❖ Acetate
- ❖ Chlorine bleach
- ❖ Petroleum distillates
- ❖ Petroleum Jelly
- ❖ Ammonia
- ❖ Glycerin
- ❖ Benzene
- ❖ Naphtha
- ❖ WD40
- ❖ Lighter fluid
- ❖ Turpentine
- ❖ Carbon tetrachloride
- ❖ Mineral spirits

Use of these solvents may void warranty.

The information provided here is condensed from *Maintaining Safe Play*, the course manual of the new NPSI Playground Maintenance Service Program.

FLEXCOAT

With all of FlexGround’s new poured in place surfacing, we recommend a FlexCoat be reapplied every two years. This will help keep your pad in good condition, reduces granulating and cracking, and can extend the life of your pad. FlexCoat is applied at owner’s expense and is not included in the original contract price.

Please read your warranty and keep in mind that some warranties are contingent upon application of a new FlexCoat at certain time intervals.

FlexCoat is a urethane coating system applied directly to the surface of the EPDM or TPV wear surface. FlexGround EPDM and TPV do not wear through; rather the **FLEXCOAT** With all of FlexGround's new poured in place surfacing, we recommend a FlexCoat be reapplied every two years. This will help keep your pad in good condition, reduces granulating and cracking, and can extend the life of your pad. FlexCoat is applied at owner's expense and is not included in the original contract price.

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FlexCoat is a urethane coating system applied directly to the surface of the EPDM or TPV wear surface. FlexGround EPDM and TPV do not wear through; rather the granules become loose over time, separating from each other causing an effect called "granulation". As the granules separate, the top surface will become thinner in high traffic areas giving the appearance of thinning rubber. In reality, that portion of your play surface has simply lost some rubber granules. The easiest way to avoid "granulation" is to apply a urethane top coat that will prevent the granules from separating. In effect, it is similar to shellacking a coffee table. The granules become solidified again and the EPDM/TPV color is returned close to its original color. The EPDM/TPV wear surface should be cleaned prior to the application of the FlexCoat System. A simple power wash may be all that is needed.

For existing rubber that has not been properly maintained, a combination of FlexCoat and FlexFix will solve most issues. Rubber that has been ignored for an extended period of time and appears to require demolition may easily be repaired with our FlexTop or FlexGrout Program. It is important to remember that any of the below maintenance programs can be utilized on any rubber surface regardless of who installed it.

FLEXFIX

FlexFix is usually done in combination with FlexCoat; however, it is not always needed. FlexFix will repair the areas that have already granulated or cracked. FlexFix will also repair rubber separation from

connecting surfaces such as sidewalks. In some instances it may be prudent to complete a repair as a special design (circles, triangles, smiley faces, etc.) utilizing different colors to make the repair appear as though it were a part of the original playground surface design.

FLEXTOP

FlexTop is a great way to save severely damaged rubber. It consists of re-applying EPDM or TPV granules (and an additional cushion layer if needed) ½” thick over the top of the existing rubber. This conceals the damage, increases the Critical Fall Height attenuation of the pad, and makes your rubber pads look Brand New!

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FLEXGROUT

FlexGrout is our revolutionary and patent pending grouting system. FlexGrout can be used to repair and strengthen existing pads, or for completely new installations. FlexGrout is engineered to penetrate and fill the voids between a pad’s rubber granules. FlexGrout renders the pad completely non-porous. All necessary slip/skid resistance is maintained by exposure of the pad’s original rubber granules at the surface.



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