

Interface

Guidelines for Flood Water Remediation on Interface Flooring Systems Carpet Tiles

Exposure of various building materials to flood water with total immersion can result in loss of appearance, odors, microbial growth, and in many cases loss of product integrity. **Interface Flooring Systems Incorporated does not recommended reuse carpet tiles that have been exposed to floods.** Nonetheless, in some circumstances an end-user may wish to proceed with carpet tile reuse despite the potential consequences. In these circumstances, it is critical that water that has accumulated both on the underside (backing) of the tiles and in the face (fiber) side of the tiles be effectively removed and that the sub floor under the carpet tiles be dried thoroughly (to moisture emission levels that are at or below Interface Flooring Systems installation specifications).

While the Interface Flooring Systems carpet tile backing components i.e., GlasBac[®] (PVC) and NexStep[®] (Polycarbonate/Polyurethane foam) are poor food sources for microorganisms like mold and mildew, the floodwater can carry dirt and other organic contaminants onto these components in sufficient quantities to support active growth. If these carpet tiles are not effectively cleaned and dried, staining and odor problems could be more severe.

The following guideline steps may help to reduce the adverse consequences when an end-user decides to reuse carpet tile that has been exposed to floods.

- 1) All moisture should be removed from the space. Standing flood water may be removed by extraction vacuum and dehumidifiers should be brought into the space and used for as long as necessary. Fans should be used to facilitate air circulation and expedite drying. It is also recommended that a disaster remediation services firm (examples include but are not limited to; Munters Corporation or Disaster Services Incorporated) be consulted for additional assistance regarding interior space drying.
- 2) All gross contaminants (dirt, debris) should be cleaned from the face side of the carpet tile.
- 3) Tiles should be pulled up from the floor to facilitate the sanitizing cleaning of the carpet tile backing and sub floor.
- 4) For GlasBac products (PVC backing) the backing surface should be wiped with undiluted Virox[®] Concentrated Carpet Sanitizer or a 1:10 dilution of Clorox[®] CleanUp[®] (bleach with cleaners) and allowed to dry. The sub floor should be treated in a similar manner.

For NexStep products vacuum extractors should be used along with squeegees to express and remove as much of absorbed water from the polyurethane foam as possible. After all the water has been expressed and extracted from the foam backing layer a light misting of the foam layer with Virox Concentrated Carpet Sanitizer or a 1:10 dilution of Clorox CleanUp (bleach with cleaners) may be applied followed by forced air drying.

NOTE: HEED ALL PRODUCT LABEL WARNINGS REGARDING USE OF BLEACH AND OTHER CLEANING MATERIALS.

5) The face side of the carpet tiles should be cleaned in the same manner as described above in step 4. The extraction of the face side should be thorough and accompanied by forced air drying. **NOTE HOWEVER, THE USE OF CLOROX CLEANUP IS NOT RECOMMENDED ON PRODUCTS THAT ARE NOT 100% SOLUTION DYED NYLON YARN.** Virox carpet sanitizer has demonstrated good sanitizing results when used correctly.

6) Prior to reinstallation the moisture status of the sub floor should be checked. Reinstallation must not proceed unless the sub floor meets all requirements for installation of new product, per Interface Flooring Systems Product Installation Instructions. Just because the sub floor appears “dry” does not mean it meets Interface Flooring Systems moisture emissions and pH level specifications. Consultation and moisture testing **by a certified Re:Source Solutions provider** may be necessary prior to the reinstallation of the carpet tile.

7) Following reinstallation, local dehumidification may still be needed to remove residual moisture from the cleaning process. Keeping the ambient relative humidity at 60% or less is recommended.

NOTE THAT THE ABOVE STEPS ARE GUIDELINES ONLY. WHILE THESE FLOOD WATER REMEDIATION STEPS ARE PROVIDED BASED ON REASONABLE HYGIENIC PRACTICE, INTERFACE FLOORING SYSTEMS INCORPORATED DOES NOT MAKE ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY REGARDING THESE GUIDELINES, AND SPECIFICALLY DOES NOT WARRANT THAT ADHERENCE TO THESE GUIDELINES WILL RESULT IN THE SUCCESSFUL REINSTALLATION OR REUSE OF CARPET TILE. FLOOD SCENARIOS CAN VARY GREATLY IN REGARDS TO DURATION AND THE ACCUMULATION OF TOXIC CHEMICALS FROM FLOOD WATERS. ANY RELIANCE ON THESE GUIDELINES IS AT THE SOLE RISK OF THE END USER. ADHERENCE TO THESE GUIDELINES WILL NOT RESTORE VOIDED PRODUCT WARRANTY COVERAGE.