

## Maintenance of your Cobra Matting

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### PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE & PLANNING

#### Maintenance is Key

Entrance matting starts to collect dirt from the moment it's installed – that's what it's there for! But to keep your mat working to its fullest capacity, you need to start maintaining it from the very beginning. Cobra Matting scrapes dirt and water from incoming foot traffic and traps it within the mat until it is removed by regular maintenance. Until you remove that dirt, it will start to build up and make your entrance mat less effective at stopping dirt at the door – so begin your maintenance program immediately!

We recommend the following guide as a basis for planning your matting maintenance program, but be sure to fine-tune it according to the specific needs of your facility:

Cleaning Method	Frequency
Shaking/Beating/Vacuuming	Daily
Spot Cleaning (especially gum)	Daily
Scrubbing & Pressure Washing	Monthly or Quarterly (as needed)

It's also important to make sure that maintaining other areas of your floor doesn't adversely impact your matting! When waxing/polishing or otherwise using a floor machine on areas near your entrance mat, we recommend removing your entrance mat from the vicinity so that the entire area can be effectively cleaned. If your mat is so equipped, prevent contact between your mat's vinyl edging and the moving parts of a rotary floor machine as contact will severely damage the mat's edging over time and can even tear the edging right away from the mat's backing!

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### ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

#### Shaking/Beating/Vacuuming

Cobra Mats should be emptied of dirt and debris daily. We recommend the following steps:

1. Flip the mat face-down on a hard surface and shake vigorously to remove loose dirt. For matting installed in a well, roll up the matting half-way and vacuum up dirt from within the well.
2. For more stubborn dirt, run a vacuum beater bar across the backing to help loosen stuck debris.
3. Flip the mat face-up and vacuum the surface to remove residual dirt.
4. Ensure that the mat's floor 'footprint' area is clean and free of dirt, dust, and debris to prevent the mat from 'walking'. Allow the floor to fully dry after damp mopping to prevent the possible growth of mold and bacteria underneath the mat.

## Spot Cleaning

Although Cobra Mats are more resistant to contaminants than textile matting, they're not impervious – especially to chewing gum. We recommend spot cleaning as soon as possible to prevent permanent damage to your mat using the following steps:

1. Perform the daily maintenance recommended above under 'Shaking/Beating/Vacuuming'.
2. Apply a general purpose detergent or water-based degreaser to the spot to be cleaned and allow it to dwell for the recommended amount of time.
3. Using a scrub brush, agitate the affected area until the contaminant is removed.
4. Rinse the mat well using clean warm water. Hang the mat vertically (avoiding sharp hooks) or drape over a rounded (not sharp-edged) surface and flush the mat until all the detergent has been rinsed away. Place the mat face-down and allow to dry fully before returning the mat to service.

## Scrubbing & Pressure Washing

Despite regular daily maintenance, over time dirt will accumulate down deep inside the matting that is very difficult to remove. On a monthly or quarterly basis (depending on your volume of foot traffic), we recommend deep cleaning your Cobra Mats using the following method:

1. Perform the daily maintenance recommended above under 'Shaking/Beating/Vacuuming'.
2. Apply a general purpose detergent or water-based degreaser across the entire surface of the mat. Using a mop, spread the detergent to cover all areas of the mat and allow it to dwell for the recommended amount of time.
3. Agitate the detergent using a bristle brush to scrub the surface of the mat thoroughly.
4. Rinse the mat well using a pressure washer and clean hot water. Hang the mat vertically (avoiding sharp hooks) or drape over a rounded (not sharp-edged) surface and flush the mat until all the detergent has been rinsed away. Place the mat face-down and allow to dry fully before returning the mat to service.

## STORAGE & HANDLING

### Rolling & Storing Mats for Extended Periods

If you have to store your entrance mat for an extended period of time, please be sure to store it in the correct manner for your mat. The backing on entrance matting is stiffer and less flexible than other kinds of flooring, so special care must be taken to prevent damage during storage. Store your entrance mat loosely rolled up, and preferably with a heavy cardboard tube inside to help it retain its shape. Roll your mat with the traffic side facing out. Never stand your rolled mat upright on its end, as this can damage the vinyl edging and cause bubbling when the mat is re-laid; lay your rolled mat flat on its side, and ensure that no other objects are stacked on top of it. **Logo mats should NOT be stored rolled up as rolling can break the bond between the logo and the backing and cause the logo to detach.**

Vinyl mats that have been not rolled up with a hard cardboard tube inside and/or have had items stacked on top to compress them can be permanently damaged. Vinyl matting has a strong 'memory' and can be warped beyond repair if compressed during storage – take extra care to ensure that nothing flattens your mat while in storage.