

Chemical Resistance of DLW VINYL floor coverings

Testing of DLW resilient floor coverings is proceeded according to European Standard EN 423 / EN ISO 26987 – determination of the effect of stains – with a 2 hours effect on the floor covering. The Standard defines the procedure and the means of evaluation. In order to enable a practical use of the testing procedures, the chemicals to be used in the procedure are not prescribed by the standard itself.

All DLW PVC floor coverings show a very good resistance against acids and alkali hydroxides – even when these occur in higher concentrations. Only on floorings without PUR surface protection a few pigments could show a colour change after a long exposure to highly concentrated acids and alkali hydroxides, although even in these cases the function and quality of the PVC floor covering is not affected.

A series of watery solutions and solvents, e.g. aliphatic hydrocarbons (gasoline, white spirit), alcohols and mineral oils, do not cause any changes on PVC floor coverings, while the effect of ketone-based solvents like acetone as well as aromatic and chlorinated hydrocarbons could cause swellings and blisters after a longer period on PVC floor coverings.

In spite of the EN 423 / EN ISO 26987 statement concerning chemical resistance, PVC floor coverings have proved very successful for decades in their suitability for chemical laboratories.

Depending on design and shade of the floor covering, spots of discoloration or bleaching can be camouflaged more or less. So we recommend to choose such colours and patterns, where possible shifts in colour and fading will not be easily noticeable.

Because of **safety requirements**, chemicals with properties potentially explosive, oxidizing, highly flammable, toxic, hazardous to health, corrosive, irritant or carcinogenic that fall on the floor should be removed as soon as possible in order to avoid the risk of accidents and to protect the floor covering itself.