

**Title:** Guide to Suitable  
Cleaning Detergents  
and Regimes for John  
Lord Flooring Systems



**Date:** 28 March 2008  
**Issue:** 3  
**Page:** 1 of 5

## 1. Introduction

The following report identifies suitable cleaning detergents recommended for the effective cleaning of Acrigard, Epigard and Uragard resin floor finishes in addition to John Lords Vibrogard Ceramic tiling systems. Advice is also given on preferential cleaning regimes to emphasise the importance of the correct selection and use of cleaning detergents.

## 2. The Floor Systems

The John Lord 'Epigard' range of flooring systems include:

- Epigard Gripcast
- Epigard SL and TSL 2/5
- Epigard SL 5/8
- Epigard ES100
- Protect No.1
- Epigard S.Q Epoxy Screed Quartz
- Priming systems

The John Lord 'Uragard' range of flooring systems include:

- Uragard HT A/S
- Uragard HT 62W
- Uragard HT 120W
- Uragard MT
- Uragard MT(F)
- Uragard SL
- Uragard HT 110W
- Uragard Decorative Quartz
- Uragard WR Cove Grade

The product range is completed with Acrigard (acrylic resin floor finishes) and Vibrogard HD and HDE industrial ceramic floor tiling systems.

With the exception of Uragard MT and Uragard WR Cove Grade, all of the **Uragard** floor systems, named above, have varying degrees of slip resistance. Epigard Gripcast and Uragard Decorative Quartz have high levels of surface profile and slip resistance but do not offer the same degree of thermal shock and impact/wear resistance as the Uragard HT range.

These flooring systems, whether smooth or anti-slip, possess a high resin content to aid effective cleaning, and their formulated chemical characteristics ensure that they will not be attacked by the vast majority of cleaning products at normal usage concentrations.

### 3. Detergent Selection

John Lord Rizistal Clean No.2 cleaning detergent is recommended for use on all of its Epigard and Uragard products. Normal usage concentration is between 2 – 5%.

There are also many commercially available cleaning detergents that are compatible with the full Epigard and Uragard ranges as above. Some of these companies and their associated products are recommended by John Lord for use on Epigard Gripcast and the Uragard product range (*Table 1*). Always follow application instructions given by the relevant company and /or product for best results.

NB. Alkaline detergents should be avoided on all John Lord floor systems as badly rinsed residues can dry on to the surface of the floor finish, promoting colour loss.

**Table 1: Recommended Cleaning Detergents**

	Uragard HT A/S (>9mm)	Uragard HT 62W (>6mm)	Uragard HT 120W	Uragard HT 120W (Back Rolled)	Uragard MT	Uragard MT(F)	Uragard SL	Uragard HT 110W	Uragard HT 110W + MB12 (1 coat)	Uragard HT 110W + SC2 (1 coat)	Uragard Decorative Quartz	Epigard Gripcast
Rizistalclean (John Lord)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Force (Premiere Products)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Force Citrus (Premiere Products)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Low Foam (Premiere Products)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Multidet 4 (Applied Chemicals)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Applied 3354 Centour TR6 V6 (Applied Chemicals)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Applied 3553 V12 (Applied Chemicals)				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Multidet 3 (Applied Chemicals)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Powerscrub 1 (Quadralene Chemicals)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Powerscrub 6 (Quadralene Chemicals)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Breakthrough (McKlords)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Holsolve HLH16 (Holchem Ltd)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Heavy Duty Cleaner FSHH2 (Holchem Ltd)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Maxifoam/Holfoam HLM7 – HLH10 Acid (Holchem Ltd)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Detergent solutions should be used up to a maximum temperature of 80° C.

Uragard HT A/S, HT 62W, HT 120W and HT 110W installed at thicknesses of 9mm and above are steam cleanable. We would recommend that our Technical Department is consulted prior using detergents in conjunction with steam cleaning.

#### 4. Preferred Cleaning Regimes for Industrial Resin Floor Finishes

Successful cleaning of floors depends on the following factors:

- Choice of the right detergent in relation to the soiling to be removed.
- Choice of the right equipment to assist in cleaning and drying.
- Diligent attention by cleaning operatives to ensure that the detergent is allowed to do its job and residues are properly rinsed off and/or vacuum removed.

The following cleaning regime is the preferred method to maintain the appearance of the floor finish and provide a safer, cleaner working environment.

- Application of detergent
  - Apply the diluted cleaning detergent to the floor using a stiff polypropylene brush, mechanical floor scrubber or vacuum scrubbing machine.
  - Allow detergent sufficient contact time with dirt/grease deposits to ensure adequate removal of contaminant into suspension, consult product application guidelines given by manufacturer.
  - For accumulated soiling the length of time the detergent is in contact with the floor should be extended.
- Cleaning
  - Manual scrubbing should then take place, using a stiff polypropylene brush, OR
  - Mechanical scrubbing using a mechanical floor scrubber, such as STR rotary type scrubbers OR a vacuum scrubbing machine, operated at a low to medium speed setting.
  - For large flat floor areas, a vacuum-scrubbing machine fitted with nylon brushes is recommended, particularly for John Lord anti-slip systems.
  - Additional cleaning may need to be carried out for floor areas where soiling has accumulated.
- Rinsing
  - Ensure that all cleaning detergent residues are effectively removed.
  - Rinse using clean water by means of a wet vacuum, vacuum-scrubbing machine or by squeegeeing excess into drains.
  - Extra rinsing should be carried out where there is accumulated soiling.

Note for small smooth areas, simple mopping may suffice. For areas where falls to drainage exists, brush scrubbing and hose rinsing is adequate.

## 5. Cleaning and Protecting Newly Installed Resin Floor Finishes

In certain circumstances a more vigorous cleaning regime may be adopted on newly laid Acrigard, Epigard and Uragard flooring systems. This may be due to any of the following such examples or similar:

Being installed in less than ideal conditions eg. at low temperatures or in partially built factory environments. in new build, extension or refurbishment projects, where dust (cement based) and debris can blow over the newly laid floors and settle on to the surface during the curing process.

The following cleaning regime is recommended in these instances:

- Choice of the right detergent
  - e.g. Holchem Heavy Duty Cleaner FSH2, Quadralene Powerscrub 6 or McKlords Breakthrough.
- Choice of the right cleaning equipment
  - e.g. STR 701 rotary type scrubbers, or similar and approved with 'Scotchbrite' , stiff nylon bristles or carbide pad.
- Cleaning detergent added at recommended concentration to warm or hot water.
- Additionally, a 0.3 – 0.5mm fine flint, such as Brett Aggregate's Flintag 6, can be scattered over the floor to be cleaned at a rate of 100 – 300g/m<sup>2</sup>.
- Diligent attention by the cleaning operatives to ensure:
  - The detergent is allowed to do its job.
  - Residues are properly rinsed off using clean water and vacuum removed.
  - Pressure washing can also be utilised but on Uragard HT systems ONLY.

Vigilance must be adopted to protect the surface of the resin floor systems against stubborn stains such as fork lift truck tyre marks, mastics, paints, inks or dye stuffs. This is particularly important for the period immediately after the floor has been newly installed. If other work is taking place around newly installed floor finishes, it is strongly advisable to protect the new floor with visqueen sheeting and boards until work has been completed.

Under no circumstances should the following practices be carried out if a floor system becomes marked with a stubborn stain:

- DO NOT attempt to remove the stain with organic solvents
  - e.g. white spirit, diesel, petroleum spirit, xylene, toluene, etc.
- DO NOT use wire brushing or similar abrasive media
  - e.g. emery cloth, wire wool, paint scrapers, etc.
- DO NOT use strong caustic media, together with any type of vigorous brushing or scrubbing
  - e.g. bleach, paint stripper, etc.
- DO NOT allow recommended cleaning detergent to come in contact with the floor finish to be cleaned for prolonged time periods as discolouration may occur.

If a floor has become marked with a stubborn stain, technical advice from John Lord should be sought to ascertain, via a site visit, how the stain is best treated.

John Lord would be pleased to approve manufacturers cleaning products and offer advice and opinions concerning suitability of cleaning equipment.

## 6. Preferred Cleaning Regimes for Ceramic Tile Systems

Cleaning may be carried out manually or using cleaning machines, preferably in conjunction with a bristle head, opposed to a 'Scotchbrite' pad. High temperature cleaning will not damage the floor. Metal scrapers may be used on the surface of the tiles, but care should be taken not to damage the edges of the adjacent tiles.

In order to maintain your floor to the highest standard of cleanliness, appearance and slip resistance the following described procedures should be adopted:

If after installation of the floor other works are to be executed, such as plastering, plumbing, painting, etc., it is essential that the floor is covered over with boarding or sheeting to prevent staining.

On newly laid floors there may be a residual film of resin grout on the tile surface. This must be removed promptly before it is cured.

The floor should be cleaned with warm or hot water and a neutral or mildly acidic detergent diluted to the concentration recommended by the manufacturer. A detergent containing anti-bacterial agents suitable for use in the food industry may be selected for the highest hygiene performance. The solution should be removed from the floor and the floor area rinsed thoroughly using clean water to remove all traces of the detergent.

It is the rinsing process and the removal of the rinse water that removes the dirt and prevents a carbonate/sulphonate film build up.

If the cleaning solution or the rinse water is allowed to evaporate from the floor, then over a period of time a carbonate/sulphonate film will build up on the surface of the tile. This will have to be removed with a mildly acidic de-cementing solution, such as, Holchem Heavy Duty Cleaner or Quadralene's Powerscrub 6. This effect may be more apparent in areas of zero or low traffic, such as in corners or around the base of pillars.

It is recommended that a mechanical vacuum scrubbing machine is used if possible. This should be operated at a slow to medium speed setting. Initially, the vacuum facility should be switched off to permit the detergent to penetrate the dirt. The cleaning solution should be allowed to remain on the floor for at least 10 minutes, after which time it should be rinsed with clean water and the vacuum facility switched on.

Spillages should be mopped up promptly to minimise the possibility of staining. In cases where a stain cannot be removed by normal cleaning procedures, a more specific treatment may be necessary. In cases where the nature of the stain is not known, technical advice should initially be sought from John Lord.



T: 0161 764 4617  
T: 0161 797 4128  
F: 0161 763 1873  
E: [enquiries@john-lord.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@john-lord.co.uk)  
W: [www.john-lord.co.uk](http://www.john-lord.co.uk)

SINCE 1901

**John L. Lord & Son Ltd.**  
Ainsworth Road, Bury  
Lancashire, BL8 2RS