



## **TAKING CARE OF YOUR MAPLE SPORTS FLOOR**

Wood is naturally porous and can absorb and release moisture. If the humidity in your facility rises, your wood floor will absorb that moisture, causing it to expand. If the humidity falls, your wood floor will release moisture, causing it to shrink.

Many installations include expansion voids around the perimeter and around columns or floor inserts, plus expansion joints built into the floor surface. These features permit natural, normal expansion and contraction without damage to the floor. Too much moisture causes abnormal expansion which can lead to cupping or buckling of your floor. In abnormally dry conditions, the wood will contract, leaving separations between flooring strips. It is important to note that many regions experience seasonal swings in relative humidity which may have some effect on your floor. Some seasonal expansion/contraction is a normal part of the life of your new maple sports floor.

### **Five Steps For Proper Daily Maintenance:**

1. Sweep the floor daily with a properly treated dust mop. If the floor is used heavily, sweep it up to three times per day.
2. Wipe up spills and any moisture on the floor.
3. Remove black marks using an approved MFMA floor cleaner – see the MFMA website for more details and instructions.
4. Make sure the heating/ventilating/air conditioning system is functioning properly, and set to maintain indoor relative humidity between 35% and 50% year round. In areas of consistently high or low outside humidity, a 15% fluctuation will not adversely affect the maple.
5. Inspect floor for tightening or shrinkage. During wet weather, check for water leakage around doors and windows. Remove debris from expansion voids.

### **Never Do the Following:**

1. NEVER shut down the ventilating system in your facility for a prolonged period of time.
2. NEVER use household cleaning products or procedures. They can be harmful to the floor finish and to the wood and may also leave floors sticky or slippery, and potentially harmful to athletes. Your maple sport flooring contractor will recommend the right cleaning and maintenance materials for your sports floor.

3. NEVER clean your maple sports floor using scrubbing machinery or power scrubbers which use water under any pressure. Water is your floor's worst enemy!
4. NEVER attempt to modify or repair your maple sports floor without first consulting your maple sport flooring contractor.

#### **General Maintenance Tips:**

1. DO NOT USE CLEANERS ON NEWLY FINISHED FLOORS FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS.
2. Always clean up any liquid spills immediately.
3. Use entrance matting at all doorways and keep vacuumed.
4. Avoid scratching the floor when moving equipment.
5. Only clean athletic shoes should be allowed on the floor.
6. Most sports floors should be recoated on an annual basis. Recoat when the original film is showing signs of wear but before the finish has worn down to the bare wood. Services and products available through Caliber Sport Systems.

#### **Eliminate Slippery Floors:**

If your floor seems slippery, check for the source of the dust. Low humidity, space under outside doors, dirty vents or furnace filters and tracked-in mud can all create dust. Oily residue from nearby rugs, hallways, wrestling mats or walk-off mats can also cause a floor to become slippery.

Cleaners available through Caliber Sport Systems Inc. HYDRO TACK excellent for tack and spot cleaning and HYDRO CLEAN for use in auto scrubber machines.

Direct all questions about your maple sports floor to your sport flooring contractor:



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