

Testing the surface

Slip resistance

If required, the finished floor may be tested for slip resistance in accordance with the method described in BS8204: Part 5 annex B. Independent tests have been conducted on samples of sand rubbed and float finish mastic asphalt flooring.

It will be noted that the natural float finish produced better results in dry conditions than the sand rubbed finish sample. However, it was noted that in wet conditions the natural float finish recorded an average of 21 which is very low and falls below the standard requirement of 39 in accordance with BS8204-5:2004+A1:2011. It was pointed out by the laboratory that it is possible that in service a natural float finish material will become matt relatively quickly as it is trafficked, which will tend to reduce its dry slip resistance towards figures obtained for sand rubbed surfaces but equally improve its wet slip resistance.

Table 5

The slip resistance value is calculated as the mean of five readings and was as follows:

Temp 23 °C	Natural float finish	Sand rubbed finish
Leather	62	47
4S (l)	70	61
Male heel rubber	72	67
Female heel rubber	51	45
TRL dry (2)	91	82
TRL wet (2)	21	63

- (1) Rubber & Plastic Research Association standardised rubber test.
- (2) Transport Research Laboratory standard rubber.

Maintenance and repair

Cleaning and polishing

A mastic asphalt flooring requires periodic routine attention to obtain the maximum service and to maintain the best decorative effects. The user should be guided by the advice of the asphalt manufacturer or a reliable flooring contractor in the selection of suitable cleaning agents and polishes for the maintenance of the floor finishes.

Polishes should be of the emulsion type, free from solvents. Polishes in which wax is prepared in a paste form with a solvent should not be used.

Superficial dirt can normally be removed by washing or scrubbing with warm water and suitable detergents. Where there is much dirt on the flooring, the addition of a small quantity of washing soda to the warm water may be desirable. After the dirt has been removed the floor should be mopped with clean water. It is essential that all oils, fats and greases be removed as soon as possible.

When hosing down, a constant water temperature should be maintained with the water temperature not exceeding 40°C.

Repair of mastic asphalt flooring

Areas of mastic asphalt flooring subjected to heavy traffic may require repairing in order to maintain the flooring in good condition. All repair work should be performed by a specialist mastic asphalt contractor. If it is necessary to remove an area of mastic asphalt, the line of the cuts should be covered with molten mastic asphalt until the underlying material has softened. The asphalt should not be removed until this has taken place. Alternatively a disc cutter may be used, but in no circumstances should a hammer and chisel be used to cut cold mastic asphalt. A gas torch with controlled gradual heating may be used when carrying out repairs.

Where mastic asphalt has previously been laid in a single-coat the cut edge of the existing mastic asphalt should be warmed using molten mastic asphalt so that a bonded joint with the re-laid mastic asphalt can be formed.

On multi-coat work where waterproofing and flooring coats have been laid, the cut edge should be softened using molten mastic asphalt and the flooring coat removed over a width of approximately 75mm. A lapped joint with the re-laid waterproofing and flooring grade mastic asphalt should then be formed.