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**Summary:** There are literally dozens of extra items of valuable performance you can get, for little or no extra cost, when you specify an anti-skid floor.



*Discuss with your flooring contractor what other benefits you can gain at the same time as making your floor safe*

### Get more when you anti-skid your floors

Most of us are so focused on eliminating the risk of slip-falls to our workers and the public that it doesn't even occur to us that we can gain valuable add-on benefits at the same time for very little, if any, extra outlay.

Over years of conducting "Floor Audits" or condition assessments of commercial and industrial floors, we use a checklist of opportunities to help customers decide whether they would benefit from such side benefits.

#### Checklist

The checklist asks "Would you gain from..."

- Added life. Clearly the floor coating material must suit the customer's duty, including any foreseeable change of duty throughout its life. Is it to tolerate solely foot traffic? And if machine or vehicular traffic, does that include steel-wheeled? And what loads? And how often? And will the duty perhaps change next year? Without choosing a flooring material to suit, even occasional peak duty could do more damage once than years of regular walk-on use.
- Added wear resistance. In a car park, for example, you must factor in that tyres scrub the surface as they make tight turns and have been known to push "folds" into lesser coating materials.
- Added impact resistance. Do workers occasionally drop hard loads? Now's the chance to make your floor more resilient to such impacts.
- Higher resistance to attack from various agents, oils, fuels and chemicals, noting that for car parks, brake fluid can be especially aggressive towards some flooring systems.
- Improved UV stability, which does more than prevent the colour fading from your floor when exposed to the ultra-violet spectrum in sunlight. It also serves to harden the floor. And it makes for easier cleaning.
- Elimination of trip zones and machine obstacles. Bumps, pot holes and crumbling expansion joints damage cleaning and handling machines and injure workers. Your anti-skid project offers a golden opportunity to fix these now. And it will certainly cost a whole lot less now than later to fix holes where racking

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or machinery have been ripped out, walls or columns removed, pits or drains cut in or levels built up for machine mounting.

- Improved aesthetics through the use of colour and patterns to delight the eye of workers and customers. Also, the extra reflectivity could even save on lighting and certainly makes for a brighter working environment.
- Line-marking and zone-painting sealed into the floor to ensure that they too remain anti-skid. Painting them on afterwards might reintroduce slip zones, spoiling what you set out to do in the first place.
- Faster drying times after wet cleaning. Unlike concrete, which absorbs water, modern flooring materials such as epoxies and polyurethanes seal the floor, lessening drying times. Also, they make for faster cleaning with less wear on cleaner machine brushes. They also make the floors impervious to oils and contaminants.
- Improved hygiene and cleanability

through a coving (a curved floor-to-wall join). It is not only very attractive but also very practical for some operations, particularly where hygiene is imperative, eliminating a natural trap for contaminants, which can be stubborn to dislodge.

- Addition of special functions. For institutional use like schools, it might be wise to add anti-graffiti properties. Or, for special processing areas such as electronics: anti-static properties. There is even a food-grade flooring material with built-in microbe-inhibitors that actively prevent bacteria, fungi, moulds and mildew from flourishing.
- Lower insurance premiums and discourage lawsuits. Choose an industrial flooring specialist who offers a floor-test service before and after laying. The resulting test documentation could well forestall or deflect frivolous claims by its very existence. It can also be used to negotiate lower premiums with

insurance companies in the same way as proving that you have installed approved fire protection or security systems does.

### **Moral**

The moral is: when you need to make your floor safer, don't merely anti-skid your floor. Instead, use this checklist and brainstorm all the value-added benefits that will make your floors, not only surfaces to move about on safely, but also truly productive assets.

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