

THE ADVANTAGES OF POLISHED CONCRETE

Because polishing is a multi-step process, customers can choose the level of sheen from satin to high-gloss that meets their maintenance and aesthetic requirements. This versatility makes polished concrete an ideal flooring material for a variety of applications.

- SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES
- HOSPITALS & MEDICAL FACILITIES
- WAREHOUSES & MANUFACTURING
- RETAIL STORES
- HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS
- OFFICE BUILDINGS
- AUTO SHOWROOMS

Ease of maintenance is the key reason many public and private facilities are opting for polished concrete. Not only are polished floors easy to clean, requiring only occasional damp mopping, they hold up well to heavy machinery and foot traffic. They also eliminate the need for labor intensive waxes or coatings as well as the associated time, and expense to apply them. What's more, the glossy surface resists the marks of scuffs, scratches, tires and staining from oil and chemical spills.

The high light reflectivity of polished concrete is another important benefit, especially for schools, office buildings, hotels, restaurants, and other public facilities that want to project a bright, clean, professional image. Some customers simply want a look that's unique. Polishing can give concrete a higher degree of shine similar to polished marble or granite that can be achieved with a high-gloss coating. This makes polished concrete a particularly good alternative for businesses that can't afford marble or granite floors but also want the same brilliant, mirror-like finish. It's also possible to produce a terrazzo look by grinding through the top few millimeters of the concrete surface to expose the aggregate.

Based on a survey conducted by the National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association, the information below compares the cost per square foot of commonly used commercial flooring materials; illustrating not only some of the hidden costs involved in the purchase and installation of various materials, but also dramatic difference in the cost of these materials.

COMPARATIVE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS						
Costs per Square Foot	Installed Cost	Annual Maint.	Years Avg. Life	Cost to Replace	Total 20 Year Cost	Cost PSF / Year
Vinyl Tile Flooring	\$1.75	\$1.51	9	\$3.50	\$39.75	\$2.00
Porcelain Tile	\$8.00	\$1.22	20	\$10.00	\$42.40	\$2.12
Quarry Tile	\$5.75	\$0.58	20	\$7.75	\$25.10	\$1.25
Terrazzo	\$18.00	\$1.10	30	-	\$40.00	\$2.00
Polished Concrete	\$4.00	\$0.40	10	\$0.50	\$12.50	\$0.65

Comparative costs. Your cost may vary.

Concrete Color Systems



POLISHED CONCRETE

The New Generation
of Decorative Concrete...
Looks Great, is Priced Right
& Lasts a Lifetime.



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DURABILITY & BEAUTY

By nature polished concrete is one of the strongest and most durable flooring options available. With the addition of a concrete densifier polished concrete can become the "The Everlasting Floor". By using an element of construction that is inherent in the building process Polished Concrete can be a great floor for the environment as well as your budget, but the true benefits show up with the maintenance savings.

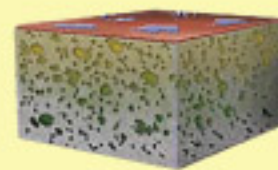


- A concrete floor reduces the environmental impact that new construction or demolition would generate. That makes it friendly to the environment.
- The thermal mass of your polished concrete floor tends to reduce heating and cooling loads by retaining the temperature in the building. That translates into significant energy savings.
- The polishing process, mechanically and chemically, minimizes exposure to hazardous components and environmental pollution both during construction and in the future.

- Polished concrete is a LEED Certified Floor, in part due to its comparatively low carbon footprint.
- The exceptional durability of your floor means no demolition or disposal issues that come with maintenance or replacement of VCT, Tile or Terrazzo.
- Polished Concrete is a low-maintenance floor, with a maintenance plan that uses no dangerous chemicals and doesn't release any VOCs. (Volatile Organic Compounds)
- Increased reflectivity from your Polished Concrete floor often allows owners to reduce lighting or lower wattage and save energy.

The new generation of decorative concrete

Concrete Color Systems specializes in custom decorative concrete solutions for commercial applications. With projects ranging from renovation to new construction, we specialize in decorative concrete and polished concrete that looks great, is priced right and lasts a lifetime. If you have seen decorative concrete that you thought lacked expert craftsmanship, you can guarantee we didn't do it! Our decorative concrete products and processes are the best you can get. These products and processes combined with our "More art that construction" approach allows us to achieve outstanding results and consistent quality.



THE BENEFITS ARE OBVIOUS....NO MORE WAX TO START WITH !!!!

During the polishing process an integral densifier is applied. The densifier penetrates the concrete and is invisible to the naked eye. Densifiers not only protect the concrete but harden and fortify the surface. This process eliminates the need for a topical coating and thereby reduces maintenance costs significantly.

Many clients are surprised when we tell them how easy it is to maintain their floor. Again, the need for wax is eliminated with a fully polished floor. In some facilities we do recommend a stain guard. These easy to apply products help provide an added level of protection against common contaminants. Ask us for a recommendation in your facility!

CAN ALL CONCRETE BE POLISHED?

Almost any structurally sound concrete floor, whether new or old, can be polished. But there are some exceptions. For new floors we recommend specific mix design parameters to achieve good results. Your concrete floor should be in place at least 28 days before polishing begins to ensure adequate curing. (Sometimes heavy grinding is done prior to a full 28 day cure time.)

Existing floors typically require some surface preparation prior to polishing to remove dirt, grease, coatings, or blemishes. However, floors that are wavy, need extensive patching, or are extremely porous may not be good candidates for polishing. CCS's experienced estimator can usually determine a floor's suitability.

IS POLISHED CONCRETE SLIPPERY?

Kept clean and dry, polished concrete floors are generally no slicker than plain concrete surfaces. And they are less slippery than waxed VCT, linoleum or polished marble. But public facilities that want to provide extra protection against slip-and-fall accidents can treat polished floors with anti-slip conditioners. These products contain special additives designed to improve traction and make wet surfaces safer. They must be reapplied periodically, but they can simply be mopped during routine cleaning.

HOW DO YOU CLEAN & MAINTAIN POLISHED CONCRETE?

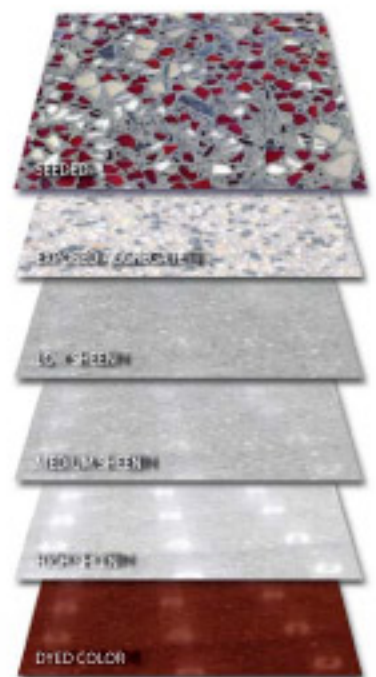
Although keeping polished concrete shiny requires minimal effort and expense, some regular care is necessary. A simple maintenance program of occasional dusting to remove grit and damp mopping with a neutral cleaner to enhance the shine is required. Some manufacturers sell special cleaners and conditioners for polished concrete that not only clean the surface, but also leave behind a dirt-resistant film. These products can be applied with a mop or auto scrubber and do not require buffing.

SELECT FROM AN ARRAY OF OPTIONS:

- If the decision is made to polish concrete in advance of the concrete being poured, there is a stunning array of available options:
- Polished Concrete can be enhanced with a wide variety of dyes to give it color, designs and pattern work while keeping the highly reflective surface.
 - Colored aggregate can be applied to the concrete mix or "seeded" into the top layer of the mix. The polishing process will reveal these aggregate.
 - Integral Colored Concrete works exceedingly well as a platform for polishing and can produce some amazing results.
 - Glass can be "seeded" into the mix. The polishing process will reveal the glass pieces.
 - Nails, bolts, computer chips, or any other objects can be seeded into the mix and then polished smooth.
 - Of course, any of these options can be combined together or into a pattern.

- TURQUOISE
- BLACK
- BURNT SIENNA
- CARAMEL
- CHESTNUT
- CHOCOLATE BROWN
- EGGPLANT
- FOREST GREEN
- GOLD
- GREEN
- MAHOGANY
- MAROON
- MIDNIGHT BLACK
- PATRIOT BLUE
- PINE GREEN
- RAW SIENNA
- SADDLE BROWN
- SAND
- SEPIA
- SLATE BLUE
- TERRA COTTA
- WALNUT

22 VIBRANT COLORS



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