

FLOORS

Structural Requirements: All floors shall be designed for assembly floor loads or structural requirements or code required loads, whichever is higher.

Standard Spaces: Flooring for standard occupied spaces within campus buildings shall be vinyl composition tile (VCT) or another system of higher quality and greater durability. Systems of lower quality or durability than VCT shall not be installed. Imported VCT should be avoided. New and “unproven” floor systems should also be avoided. Standard sheet flooring shall not be installed but high- performance homogeneous sheet flooring, such as Armstrong Medintech, may be used in labs or other areas deemed appropriate.

Corridors and Public Areas: There shall be consideration of flooring of greater durability than VCT in corridors and other high-traffic public areas. These include concrete, terrazzo, ceramic tile, rubber tile or other construction of equivalent durability. Carpeting and wood flooring shall not be used in high-traffic areas.

Restrooms: Flooring in restrooms shall be ceramic tile or terrazo.

Elevators: Flooring in passenger and freight elevators shall be VCT, rubber tile, carpet or ceramic tile.

Equipment/Service Areas: Typically, floors in equipment rooms and service areas shall be sealed concrete. The office spaces within equipment and service areas may be finished in this same manner.

Color: Light colored floor finishes, whether carpet or tile should be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Mottled patterns that incorporate a variety of “earth tones” are preferred. They help to mask spots, spills, dirt accumulation, traffic wear, etc. This is especially important in heavy traffic areas.

Carpeting and Wood Flooring: Installation of carpeting shall generally be avoided, especially in high traffic areas, food service areas and public restrooms, as well as classrooms and other public use areas. Carpeting should be avoided in auditoriums because food and drinks inevitably end up in these types of spaces, resulting in major cleaning problems. Installation of wood flooring should also be avoided. When carpeting is installed it shall be of high quality and carpet tile is preferred to broadloom. See *Section 09 68 00 – Carpet* for specification requirements. When wood flooring is installed it shall be of high hardness.

Occupational Health: No asbestos-containing material shall be purchased nor installed in any flooring or flooring materials.