

SURFACE FINISHES - FLOORS, WALLS & SPECIFIC AREAS

FLOORS

SURFACE	ACCEPTABLE?	PROPERTIES	COMMENTS
Quarry Tiles & Terrazzo Tiles	YES	Provide a smooth, hard surface but some types of grouting may be slightly absorbent and so may hold grease and dirt and be difficult to clean effectively. Expensive initially but their durability and ease of maintenance should prove cost-effective long term.	May be suitable for processes involving water but can be slippery when wet and when the process involves blood or grease. Should be covered at the wall/floor junction. The effectiveness of "non-slip" finishes should be checked fully before a final decision is made.
Vinyl Tiles	YES	Provide a smooth, non-absorbent and easily cleaned surface. Less resistant to traffic (trucks, etc.) than the above.	Require a very flat surface and careful preparation for the adhesive otherwise they may be prone to lifting. Not really suitable for very wet conditions. Slippery when water and/or grease is present.
Vinyl Safety Flooring	YES	Seamless and non-slip but is still capable of being effectively cleaned. Can be dressed into coving at the wall/floor junction.	Requires good preparation of the surface before laying. Little maintenance required.
Concrete & Granolithic Concrete	ONLY IF PROPERLY SEALED	Relatively cheap surface which may be easily laid to a fall. Can be very smooth and hard (especially granolithic) when laid by a skilled person.	Unless properly sealed it is absorbent and will produce dust and particles which may contaminate the product. Only really suitable for storerooms, wash-up areas, cellars, etc. i.e. not open food areas.
Asphalt	YES (but see comments)	Seamless, smooth surface relatively cheap to install and capable of being easily cleaned.	NOT SUITABLE where oils, fats or greases are present since they affect the asphalt by making it soft.
Carpets	NO	All carpets (including so-called 'non-absorbent' carpets) are incapable of being effectively cleaned and, as such, are NOT ACCEPTABLE in food rooms.	Carpets are permissible in dining rooms - however, they are not recommended as they are difficult to keep clean e.g. after food spillages.

WALLS

WALL COVERING	ACCEPTABLE?	PROPERTIES	COMMENTS
Stainless steel cladding	YES	Provides a very hard and durable surface which will withstand impact. Expensive initially, but its durability and ease of maintenance should prove cost effective long-term.	Must be firmly bonded to the wall with concealed fixings and be trimmed at the top, bottom and at butt joints.
Plastic laminate cladding	YES	As comments above - but less expensive than stainless steel and still provides a very good surface.	Fixing requirements as for stainless steel.
Ceramic tiles	YES	Provides a smooth hard surface but grouting joints are absorbent and may hold grease and dirt and be difficult to clean effectively.	Vulnerable to impact damage from mobile containers, door handles etc. Repairs are difficult to carry out without disturbing surrounding tiles. Exposed corners may require extra protection. A sound, solid fixing bed is essential. May be unsuitable in hot areas where tiles may crack and lift.
Painted plaster	YES (provided the surface is in a good state of repair)	When sound and painted with a good non-absorbent washable paint this will provide an acceptable low cost surface for many situations. Painted walls can be affected by condensation which may cause flaking and peeling of paint.	Requires regular repair/maintenance and repainting which may disrupt production and/or present a contamination risk to food. Painted walls will only be acceptable where the plaster is sound. May be unsuitable in certain areas e.g. where heat may cause the surface to blister.
Wallpaper	NO	This is not suitable as it is absorbent (even the washable variety) and is therefore not capable of being effectively cleaned.	Not acceptable in any food room any room where food is prepared, treated or processed).
Epoxy resin	YES	Provides a smooth joint free surface without the need for fixings	The wall needs to be dry to ensure the proper bonding of the resin.

GUIDANCE FOR SPECIFIC AREAS

AREA	Painted plaster ⁽¹⁾	Epoxy resin ⁽¹⁾	Tiles	Vinyl sheets	Stainless Steel ⁽²⁾	PVC sheets ⁽²⁾
Beer cellar	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dry/Vegetable Store	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Warehouse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grocer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kitchen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁽³⁾	Yes	Yes ⁽³⁾
Kitchen/Servery	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bakery (Retail)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes ⁽³⁾	Yes	Yes ⁽³⁾
Food Factory ⁽⁶⁾	No ⁽⁵⁾	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toilet	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ⁽⁴⁾	Yes	Yes
Refuse Store	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wash up area	No ⁽⁵⁾	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Notes:

(1) Moisture content of walls is critical to the use of paint and epoxy resins

(2) No timber should be used in fixing these materials

(3) Should not be used in high temperature areas

(4) Can be damaged by cigarettes in these areas

(5) May be acceptable at high level or where low risk operations are carried out

(6) The acceptability of individual finishes will depend on the type of activity or product