



CASE STUDY

MINNESOTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 885

ULTRA DURABLE TECHNOLOGIES' EPIC® FLOOR FINISH

OVERVIEW

EPIC® (manufactured exclusively by Ultra Durable Technologies) is a sustainable and environmentally-friendly floor finish that dramatically improves the appearance of floors while also providing cost savings. EPIC® has impressed facility managers with tremendous gloss retention in extremely demanding environments since its introduction to the market in 2008.

EPIC® was developed by Ultra Durable Technologies to completely replace the ongoing and costly maintenance requirements associated with traditional acrylic floor care programs. One thin coat of EPIC® lasts an average of 3-5 years in high-traffic environments without any buffing or recoating. The labor savings allow janitorial staff to focus on other important cleaning and sanitizing duties that are increasingly important in schools. Additionally, the use of EPIC® saves a tremendous amount of water, electricity, labor, and chemicals that can have an adverse impact on staff, students, and the environment.

THE TRIAL

The Saint Michael-Albertville High School, located in St. Michael, Minnesota, conducted an initial trial of EPIC® in 2014. The goal was to monitor how long one coat of EPIC® floor finish would outperform the

current acrylic floor finish on the school's terrazzo floors. The floors are in very high-traffic areas of the high school and include two main entrances, the cafeteria and the main lobby.

The initial EPIC® trial was led by the Director of Building and Grounds, Terry Zerwas, who was responsible for maintaining over 1 million square feet of flooring across 8 different schools. The acrylic floor care program that was previously in place required an enormous amount of energy to maintain each year.



Every summer, the janitorial staff scrubbed all floors in the schools and refinished them using an average of 2-3 more coats of acrylic. "It took a lot of labor and overtime pay, the gloss would diminish, and traffic patterns became visible within the first 30 days," says Mr. Zerwas.

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Additionally, the acrylic floor finish looked very inconsistent, had darkened, and had no remaining shine. (See photo on right) This worn-out acrylic finish was stripped from approximately 10,000 square feet of terrazzo flooring and replaced with EPIC® in the summer of 2014.

TRIAL OUTCOMES

After five years, the single coat of EPIC® high-performance floor finish that was applied by a local flooring contractor still looked great. The high gloss remained intact and there had been no buffing, stripping or recoating. The only area that showed any need for a recoat was under a small number of high-top chairs that were missing floor protectors. This could have been avoided with the use of recommended chair tips.

Even so, the area in need of attention accounted for less than 10% of the areas coated five years earlier. The repair process involved a very simple maroon pad scrub and reapplication in the damaged area.

SUMMARY

Due to the success of the trial, STMA is now actively applying EPIC® to several more terrazzo floors in the district. EPIC® has clearly served as a tremendous benefit to the STMA school district. Maintenance procedures simply involve dust-mopping, spot-mopping and auto-scrubbing with water (or aqueous ozone) only as needed. "I was skeptical at first, but the result speaks for itself," says STMA High School Day Lead, Shane Kern. "We even tested stripping the EPIC® that was applied in 2014, and it came off easier than the acrylic floor finish," adds Mr. Kern.



HEALTH & SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

EPIC® contributes to the overall health and safety of an educational facility. *How so?* EPIC® creates a complete, monolithic membrane over a floor surface that is free of pores and therefore resists viral and bacterial growth. Additionally, there is NO BUFFING involved in the maintenance of flooring sealed with UDT coatings.

According to "Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities" from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019):

"A variety of airborne infections in susceptible hosts can result from exposures to clinically significant microorganisms [that are] . . . disturbed. . . [and] subsequently dispersed into the air" (p. 20).

No buffing results in cleaner air for students, teachers, janitors, and all other staff and visitors.

By saving a significant amount of labor, time, money, and energy, EPIC® allows the school janitorial staff to focus on sanitizing and disinfecting areas that tend to be overlooked (especially when the flooring requires a lot of time and attention). Now more than ever, ridding schools of germs and preventing future illness is a top priority.

For more information about EPIC® contact Ultra Durable Technologies:

800-722-2998

www.epicfloorfinish.com



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