

Walk-Off Mats

According to the ISSA (International Sanitary Supply Association) approximately 70% of floor soil is tracked in from outdoors by foot traffic. They also estimate that the cost to remove one pound of soil from a carpet is more than \$500.00. If soil can be trapped at the door on walk-off mats, labor intensive and costly cleaning can be avoided or at least drastically reduced. The proper use of matting is essential to any floor maintenance program-either hard surface floors or carpets.

There are a variety of walk-off mats available and certain soil conditions may dictate what mat should be used. The recommended mat length will not vary. The average person must take about six steps to remove street soil from the soles of their shoes. A 12 to 15 foot length of matting will ensure that the majority of soil is removed from the soles of shoes.

Walk-off mats fall into two general categories:

1. Scrapper Mats are more textured and are useful in scraping heavy soil and grit off the bottoms of shoes.
2. Wiper Mats are used to wipe moisture and fine dust from the soles of shoes.

Ideally, a combination of scrapper and wiper mats will produce the best results for keeping heavy soil off floors. Here are a few things to consider when selecting a matting program for your facility:

1. Mats don't have to be ugly. There are a wide variety of colors and styles to choose from that will compliment any décor whether it is a warehouse, office, retail location or an executive or professional suite. Logo mats are prestigious, reinforcing the company's name and image...and they are affordable.
2. Consider where the mat will be placed. Will it be inside the door or under a roof where it will be well protected from the elements? On the other hand, will it be placed outdoors? You don't want a soggy mat at your entrance. Choose one that allows water to pass through it.
3. Do not overlook placing mats between office or retail space and work areas like garages, shops and warehouses. Also consider using mats in high traffic areas in front of counters or in areas where spills are like, such as water coolers, around the coffee service or in break rooms.
4. Speaking of break rooms, give a "break" by installing anti-fatigue mats behind counters and in work areas where employees have to stand for long periods of time. Anti-fatigue mats help cushion the impact when tools or parts are accidentally dropped.
5. Finally, keep your walk-off mats clean. Nothing makes worst "First Impressions" than a dirty mat. If a mat is loaded with dirt it will cause more soil to be tracked onto floors-Exactly the opposite of what you're trying to accomplish.

