

# How to flourish in the world of television studio flooring.

**AT PARK PLACE STUDIO**, studio floors are a critical component of our overall set designs. They're more than half of your newscast's visual image, whether for a couple of seconds if you have fixed cameras, or for minutes if you have rolling cameras, grid cams or a jib.

■ **Tile.** We begin with tile because it's *the best solution*. Linoleum is beautiful, but it's fragile and can tear. 12"x12" vinyl squares are virtually indestructible and will outlast the building that houses them. Vinyl doesn't chip when an errant crescent wrench rains down from a ladder. Plus, a single vinyl tile can be easily replaced in the unlikely event it becomes damaged. Touch-up paint tends to change color and consistency over time, creating a visible blob.

Our most frequently recommended flooring tile can be found at any Home Depot or Lowe's for about 40 bucks a carton. If you chose a textured tile, consider seaming it at a slant or basket weave pattern for more visual interest.

Glued Rosco tiles (to make them permanent) are not a good solution because they scratch, dent and shrink over time.

■ **Paint.** If you paint, you have a lot more palette freedom. The brand to use is Valspar, available at Lowe's home improvement stores. Our personal favorite is Fly-By-Night Blue, but there are some interesting off-blacks if you're leery of too blue. A satin finish is best. Do not top off the paint with clear coat, which scuffs through in high traffic areas and makes touchups a nightmare.

Ideally, choose 2-3 samples, apply two coats in an unseen part of the studio, then test for reflectivity, hue, and durability with high heels, dropped or dragged gear etc. Caution: some paints don't adhere properly to other paints. Test any scenario first!

■ **Epoxy.** The thing to consider with epoxy is that once it's poured, it can only be refreshed with more epoxy or covered with tiles. Epoxies do not play nicely with non-epoxy paints – or with glues, for that matter. Epoxy is gorgeous, but very pricey.

■ **Concrete.** Clean it with a mild detergent, buff it with a low luster wax and count your blessings.

■ **Carpet.** 2'x2' carpet tiles are perfect for light camera peds and foot traffic, and they have the added advantage of dampening sound.



*A beautiful, durable vinyl floor from your local home improvement store*

## Floor Prep and Maintenance

Just three time honored words about preparing your floor: **don't use chemicals**. Glues, paints and waxes often fight with solvents, and the solvents win. Use a dry circular sander only. If a floor guy talks about using an acid wash, escort him to the door. The acid leaches into the substrate, and cannot be reversed.

It's better to leave tile or linoleum

down and cover it over. Older tile floors may contain asbestos or asbestos could have been used in the glue that holds them down. You can save yourself a week of men with masks and suits and large invoices by testing one tile. In the environmental world, sleeping dogs can and should lie.

Buff up your matte floor surface with wax if you have fixed or manned cameras. Be careful with wax if you have robotic pedestals, which can slip and lose their way.

Rule of thumb: the darker the floor, the richer the look, but the more maintenance involved in keeping scuff marks and dirt at bay.

Finally, take care when dulling down glossy surfaces with satin or matte finish clearcoat. The dried roller marks reflect light and resemble a tired-marked accident scene.

**Questions? The experts at Park Place Studio are standing by to help you.**

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