

# WHEN STRIP-AND-SEAL STOPS SCALING

## How high-uptime environments are replacing periodic floor restoration with preservation-led systems

In airports, hospitals, and other high-uptime environments, periodic floor restoration has become a liability rather than a solution.

When an airport responsible for around **2 million square feet of terrazzo** concludes it does not have the time, people or budget to keep stripping and resetting its floors, that is not a resourcing issue. It is a structural failure of the prevailing model. In this case, the incumbent stone protection system developed micro-cracking that trapped soil beyond the reach of auto-scrubbing. The only remedy was full strip-back, re-honing and reapplication - disruptive, labour-intensive and impossible to scale across a live estate.

For environments that must remain open, safe and presentable almost continuously, the traditional trade-off between appearance and disruption no longer holds.

## WHY THE PRESSURE IS INCREASING

Most senior cleaning and FM leaders understand strip-and-seal inside out. What has changed is the context around it. Clients now expect consistent appearance without closures, safer processes with reduced chemical exposure, credible sustainability outcomes and predictable lifecycle costs.

Strip-and-seal can still deliver a visual reset, but it concentrates labour, cost and risk into short windows - and in high-traffic environments deterioration often begins again immediately. The question is no longer how often floors should be restored, but whether restoration should remain the default approach at all.

## FROM RESTORATION TO PRESERVATION

NeverStrip reflects a different philosophy. It is a **permanent micron sealer** that bonds at a microscopic level to hard floor substrates such as terrazzo, granite, vinyl and linoleum. Rather than acting as a sacrificial layer, it becomes part of the floor surface.

That structural difference shifts maintenance away from cyclical rebuilds and towards preservation: neutral cleaning, frequent auto-scrubbing where required, regular burnishing and localised repair instead of wholesale removal. Floors are kept in condition continuously rather than periodically reset.

## PROVEN UNDER REAL OPERATIONAL PRESSURE

The airport's adoption followed a cautious, staged route. In **February 2023**, a **2,000 sq ft pilot** was installed in a demanding concourse adjacent to food courts and maintained using frequent auto-scrubbing and burnishing with standard equipment. The objective was straightforward: test whether a permanent system could withstand intensive, real-world cleaning.

It could.

By **September 2023**, in-house teams extended the system to **50,000 sq ft** in the Delta Wing concourse, auto-scrubbed three or more times daily and burnished weekly. Appearance was preserved rather than degraded by cleaning frequency.

By **June 2024**, the airport applied the system across **all 80+ white terrazzo restrooms**, and in **August 2025** began rolling it out across the full **2 million sq ft estate**. This was not a theoretical trial, but a phased operational decision driven by maintenance realities.

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## WHAT CHANGED FOR THE OPERATOR

Three outcomes mattered.

First, the airport eliminated repeated honing, stripping and full reapplication, removing disruptive restoration peaks from its maintenance plan.

Second, the system remained compatible with aggressive cleaning schedules, maintaining appearance under constant use.

Third, floors became **repairable rather than disposable**. Localised damage could be corrected using standard machines and diamond pads without closing large areas.

Together, this delivered significant labour and material savings, improved consistency and materially reduced operational risk.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR UK CONTRACTORS AND FACILITIES

For UK contractors, specialist floorcare providers and in-house FM teams, this challenges a long-held assumption that permanent systems cannot survive high-traffic, high-frequency cleaning.

They can - when applied correctly and supported by the right maintenance protocols.

This is where Foremost UK's role is critical. NeverStrip is positioned not as a product swap, but as a **system upgrade**, supported by structured training, defined preparation and burnishing standards, and technical oversight. That approach protects delivery quality, reduces risk and strengthens commercial credibility with increasingly sophisticated clients.

## A SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOME THAT PAYS ITS WAY

Removing routine stripping reduces water use, chemical consumption and hazardous waste, while improving indoor air quality. Just as importantly, preserving the substrate avoids long-term damage caused by repeated grinding and chemical attack, extending asset life and reducing capital replacement pressure.

These are sustainability gains that align with cost control rather than competing with it.



## RETHINKING "GOOD" FLOORCARE

The airport example shows how floorcare can move from cyclical damage and repair to long-term preservation and control - without compromising live operations. For leaders across cleaning, facilities and specialist maintenance, the message is clear: future-ready floorcare systems must reduce disruption, stabilise cost and improve reliability.

That shift requires partners willing to challenge convention, not simply supply products. It is exactly where Foremost UK focuses its work.

