

Floor Marking Questions and Answers

Following our recent webinar, "Put It All on the Floor – Lead with Floor Marking for a Lean/5S Workplace," we received a number of questions around floor and area marking best practices. Please find answers to some of the top questions below.

1. Most floor tape does not hold up to forklift traffic. How do we maximize the amount of time that the markings will last?

Make sure you have the right product for the application. Brady specially designs and offers innovative materials that can be used in areas where high industrial vehicle traffic is a concern. If you do not go that route, then there is the option to use an overlamine to add additional protection and to prevent pick points.

2. What are some best practices for prolonging the life of applied floor tape?

If you see an area of the tape that is getting worn/torn, cut that piece off and replace with new tape. This way you will prevent the tearing of the rest of the tape in that area and address the one piece that was damaged. Another option is to use a clear overlamine tape over your primary tape. This will help prolong the life of the tape and further prevent pick points that may occur.

3. When using floor tape for directions, are there any OSHA rules?

When using floor tape to convey directions, OSHA specifies that the tape should be a minimum of 2 inches in width.

4. Are stop signs required around forklift traffic?

While stop signs are not required by OSHA, it's best practice to use them to ensure workplace safety hazards are clearly identified.

5. What is the most important thing to do when looking to implement floor identification in a warehouse?

Evaluate expected environmental conditions and then assess expected wear and tear. Review the OSHA guidelines for floor marking and then pull best practices from 5S/lean methodology. This will guide you on the right areas to identify and the best type of tape/signage for each area.

6. Do you have guide for implementing a floor tape color coding plan?

Visit BradyID.com/floormarking to learn more about floor marking color, and download the "Floor Marking Guide."

7. We do not have enough room to have a foot path and forklift path. What is the best way to handle this?

The best way to handle that is to have signage (floor and regular) depicting the need to watch out for forklift traffic before even entering the area. This way you are providing cautionary information before anyone even enters that space.

8. Can we use any other color for the walk way, like white?

Yellow is the most common color for walk ways, however there is no regulation on what the color has to be, so white would be perfectly acceptable.

9. Would black/white be appropriate around eyewash stations?

Use red/white as that is commonly used for areas in front of safety equipment. Black/white is used more for areas to be kept clear, NOT for safety or compliance standards.

10. What floor marking do you recommend on ramps?

It depends on how textured the surface of the ramp is. If it's highly textured, then floor tape would not hold up well. If the ramp is smooth, you could outline the edges with our ToughStripe® floor marking products.

11. What surfaces/floors should floor marking tape NOT be used on?

Floor marking tape should not be used on wood floors or very rough surfaces.

12. Does OSHA require glow-in-the-dark tape if you already have emergency lighting in the building?

IFC 1023.1 states “approved luminous egress path markings delineating the exit path shall be provided ...having occupied floors located more than 75 ft. above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access. Emergency lighting is sufficient to illuminate the exit path ways, and while glow in the dark tape is not required in addition to emergency lighting, it provides additional guidance in case of emergency.”

13. How would you mark a used rag container or safety can for oily rags?

It depends on what chemical is on the rags. In most cases, use yellow/black for anything that could expose employees to a health hazard.

14. What is the best approach to introduce the 5S/lean concept to a new environment?

The first step is to gather a designated person or team and make sure they understand the 5S/lean concept. There are a lot of educational and training tools available to assist with this. To roll out the program, you need to educate, demonstrate and then do an analysis of how it can be implemented throughout the facility. You then can roll out the plan companywide with a formal training program and use an educated/trained team to assist with both training and implementation.

15. Is three feet a standard clearance around fire extinguishers and eye wash stations like it is for breaker panels or are there differing guidelines for different applications?

There is no definitive clearance in front of fire extinguishers or eyewash stations. OSHA states only that you should “mount, locate and identify so that they are readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to possible injury.”

16. Do you have a tape that is easily removable for temporary use?

We don't have tape that is tested and marketed for temporary use, but thin vinyl tape has the lowest adhesion rate for very easy removal.

17. What tape would you recommend for area that has carpet over it?

ToughStripe is a polyester tape that works well on carpet, yet will not damage the carpet when the tape needs to be removed.

18. What do you recommend for medium grade floor tape?

Brady's ToughStripe floor marking tape — visit BradyID.com/toughstripe to learn more.

 **To learn more, visit
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