



## nora<sup>®</sup> Figures Prominently In Hospital Renovation

Cleaning the floors at St. Petersburg, Florida's All Children's Hospital used to be a scheduling nightmare. According to Anna Stratigos, administrative director of support services, maintenance of the hospital's vinyl composite tile floors had to be set up days in advance, taking into account asthmatic staff and patients who might be adversely affected by chemicals in the stripper and wax. "The chemicals were a concern to us as was the amount of time and labor required to complete the cleaning, stripping and waxing process," said Stratigos. "Rooms were tied up for long periods of time; and, try as we might, we could never remove the wax buildup that splashed on the baseboards and gave the floors a sloppy appearance."

So, when the patient rooms in the 216-bed hospital were scheduled for renovation, Stratigos searched for an easy-to-maintain floor covering that could be cleaned without harsh chemicals and would not require stripping and waxing. Her search ended with **nora<sup>®</sup>** rubber flooring. **nora<sup>®</sup>** products are available in a broad range of colors and patterns

that blended nicely with the hospital's interior design scheme and addressed the maintenance issues that plagued Stratigos.

"Here was a product that offered easy maintenance," said Stratigos. "We didn't have to worry about chemicals in stripping and waxing products, because **nora<sup>®</sup>** rubber flooring systems don't require stripping and waxing. We can use a nontoxic general purpose cleaner when we clean the floors. The results – savings in labor, time and cleaning agents. And, these floors really look nice all the time."

Stratigo's points to **nora<sup>®</sup>** rubber floor covering's other benefits, including stain and slip resistance and durability. "**nora cleanguard<sup>™</sup>**", a proprietary process used during manufacturing, creates a dense, non-porous, dirt-repellent surface for all **nora<sup>®</sup>** products. "Stain resistance is important in patient care areas, and with this rubber flooring, we have it, even with all the betadines we use," said Stratigos. "And, the



**All Children's Hospital,  
St. Petersburg, FL**

slip resistance goes up with this product, meaning floors are less slippery even when they are wet."

Stratigos continued, "Since installing the **nora**® flooring, we've also noticed that it's much easier to roll heavy equipment across the floors, and it appears that our employees have registered fewer complaints of lower back pain. We think this is the result of the cushioning the rubber flooring offers staff members, who are on their feet most of their workday."

Renovations to the 40-year-old facility began in 2000, with the installation of **nora**® rubber flooring in patient rooms and rest rooms. Since then, close to 100,000 square feet of **noraplan**® effect and **noraplan**® stone have been installed in play areas, rest rooms, laboratories, common areas, corridors and stairwells. Recently completed renovations to the emergency center and short stay unit also include **nora**® rubber flooring products.

In addition to the hospital, All Children's is completing renovations to its resource center. The hospital selected **noraplan**®

astro for installation in the center's receiving area, work rooms, break rooms, elevators, storage areas, pharmacy, stairwells, print room, test labs and janitor's closets. **noraplan**® astro is a new high performance floor covering that features a striking design, composed of three distinct color components in a smooth nonglare finish.

Its natural stone look gives the floor a sophisticated feel and makes it the appropriate choice for an administrative building. In addition, the floor is easy to maintain and offers resistance to wear, nonslip characteristics and noise reduction that are especially important in the receiving area of the building.

As the hospital continues to grow, Stratigos noted that additional maintenance staff has not been required to care for additional square footage of flooring. "I have to believe that these labor savings are the result of the significant time savings associated with the care of **nora**® rubber flooring. What's more, the flooring we installed five years ago, when we started this renovation process, looks as good as the flooring we're installing today."

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