

Life Floor offers safety aspect of heat dissipation for hot surfaces

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

MINNEAPOLIS — As water park season approaches, every facility becomes focused on safety. Preventing drownings is always top of mind, but parks have been limited in everyday circumstances in the protection of feet from the burning effects of concrete and asphalt.

At their worst, bare concrete and asphalt can surpass temperatures of 130 degrees or more. Even composite decking, metal grates and railings can pose a danger.

The first line of defense is appropriate footwear worn by the guest. But as not all guests choose to do so, the need for more answers is evident.

As the water park industry continues to innovate, new products that have come online to address the ongoing concern of extreme heat.

Life Floor, which has been lauded for its colorful aesthetics, goes beyond looks.

So often, kids play games saying, “The floor is lava.” But in hot climates with direct sunlight, that’s not too far-fetched. Human skin feels discomfort when surface temperatures exceed 110 degrees. First-degree burns start at 118 degrees F (48 C); second-degree burns occur seconds after contact with surfaces that reach 131 degrees (55 C).

Life Floor provides a solution for protecting guests. Unlike typical hard surfaces, Life Floor tiles are engineered to dissipate heat quickly, preventing



Life Floor is known for its colorful designs. COURTESY BAYNUM SOLUTIONS

them from reaching hazardous temperatures.

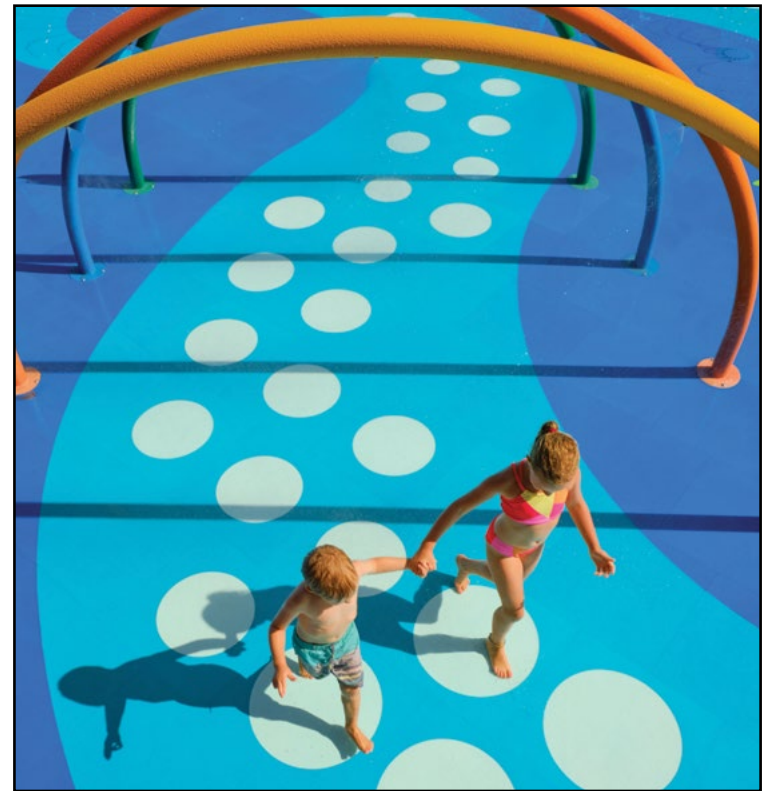
“On Life Floor, it takes heat five seconds or less to dissipate as soon as it’s touched. Our tiles are made from a foam-rubber material which is comparable to stepping onto a heavy-duty flip-flop,” said **Briana Valente**, marketing manager, Life Floor. “Our tiles don’t get dangerously hot and will at most reach 110 to 115 degrees on the surface unless there are extremely high ambient air temperatures to begin with. For example, in Arizona’s record-breaking 115-degree weather, our products might increase in temperature to 120, but they still will not burn skin on contact.”

Wet feet are not enough as those situations can increase heat transfers from hot concrete. Children may be more vulnerable as their thinner skin may cause slower reaction times.

“Life Floor is also a Certified Autism Resource accredited by IBCCES,”

noted Valente. “We attained this certification because creating autism-friendly spaces is important and ties into the sensory needs required for diverse play spaces. This also ties into the heat dissipation conversation because the environmental temperature is a strong sensory experience.”

Life Floor CEO **Jonathan Keller** is also chair of NSF 50 Task Group on Safety Surfacing. He has stated: “The biggest thing we’ve been trying to do is to get the aquatics industry to be in line with the dry play industry. Specifically, there are so many pool codes that state surfaces should be slip-resistant, but they don’t reference specific standards. Up until this point, there wasn’t a standard that codes could point to and reference in their code. Now, this allows everyone to use the same criteria and empowers health departments to point to a specific set of resources to guide their work. Aquatics now have products that are



certified and meet rigorous criteria which in turn benefit the end user.”

Also, further safety aspects include slip resistance even when wet and impact attenuation which absorbs falls, reducing injury risks. Impermeable and hygienic, Life Floor surfaces resist water absorption and bacterial growth, simplifying maintenance.

The company also emphasizes that the surfaces are UV and chemical resistant, maintaining performance and color integrity even in harsh environmental conditions.

In addition to the tiles being safer, they also are more fun and imaginative.

As testimony to Life Floor’s performance, success has already been found in extremely hot climates. Texas municipality complexes have installed Life

Floor to eliminate guest complaints about burning-hot pool decks. Likewise, **Atlantis the Palm Dubai** has installed Life Floor for surfaces in direct sunlight, preventing burns in one of the hottest climates on Earth.

Baynum Solutions is an authorized partner in installing Life Floor.

“We’ve worked with major parks and aquatic facilities across the country to install Life Floor in environments where guest safety is paramount,” said **Jacob Round**, sales representative, Baynum Amusement Solutions. “Whether it’s in Texas communities, where summer temperatures make walking barefoot a challenge or in high-profile destinations, we’ve seen the difference this product makes. It’s more than just a surface — it’s a game-changer in aquatic safety.”

“We choose our partners based on their commitment to our core values and brand tenets of safety, design and accessibility,” Valente told *Amusement Today*. “Because of that fact, we enthusiastically partner with Baynum and champion their expertise and high-quality craftsmanship. Our mission is to make all aquatic spaces safe and beautiful for all people, and Baynum aligns completely with that mission.”



Heat dissipation and slip resistance are two safety factors of Life Floor. In addition to being cooler, the cushioned surface makes for a softer experience. COURTESY BAYNUM SOLUTIONS