

## Project Profile: Portillo's Commissary

*When food created a mess at Portillo's, Concare delivered a clean, safe flooring solution.*

Beef stewing, gravy bubbling, peppers roasting and ribs grilling: the scents of the Portillo's Commissary in Aurora make mouths water, just like the food in their 32 Chicago-area restaurants. To keep their quality high, Portillo's does all of the back-end preparation of their homemade foods in two central commissaries. Not only does this process involve lots of people, but it takes lots of equipment, too: large machines, stainless steel racks and rolling stock are just a few of the tools needed to get the job done.

Thanks to hot grease, constant wash downs and dropped cookware, the floors in the Portillo's Aurora Commissary had taken a beating. They needed a system that could not only withstand thermal shock, but remain safe when wet and maintain their sanitation standards. An integral cove base was a must for easy-to-clean corners, and Portillo's also had a strict deadline: their new build-out had to be finished for the holiday rush. With just months to go, Concare delivered a comprehensive flooring solution.

Eight weeks before the installation, Concare crews placed Rh probes in the new concrete to monitor its moisture level, ensuring the slab would be dry enough for the new

flooring system to properly bond. However, crews soon discovered that the moisture wasn't drying up fast enough to meet Portillo's deadline.

To combat the potential problem, Concare crews arrived three weeks before to shotblast the floor, opening up the surface and allowing the moisture to evaporate. Concare's Ron Puszynski also suggested a system that would tolerate a higher percentage of moisture than traditional epoxy.

Concare's GuardRight MM (methylmethacrylate) flooring system was selected for its rapid cure time, among many reasons. The management at Portillo's was sensitive to the limited downtime available to make repairs, so it was crucial to select a flooring system that could be restored and back in service overnight. Supplementary trowelled ColorQuartz created impact resistance and added a decorative flair.

With a strong, safe floor that can withstand the rigors of a lively kitchen, Portillo's is now prepared to do what they do best: treat the Chicagoland area to their signature menu.



Years of spilled grease, continuous wash downs and damage from heavy cookware left the floors in the Portillo's Aurora Commissary in poor shape.



With little downtime to make repairs meant it was crucial to select the right material technology.



The rapid-curing GuardRight MM flooring system was installed overnight and the floor was back in service the next morning.

If food is your bread and butter, we've got your floor!  
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Floors  
**Right**<sup>®</sup>

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