

Training Information

HOW TO STRIP FLOORS

Tools & Materials Needed:

- A. Three mop heads with handles
- B. Three buckets with wringers
- C. Broom and dust pan
- D. 175 single disk floor machine
- E. Black or brown stripping pads
- F. Wet/dry vacuum
- G. Floor squeegee
- H. Stand up scrapper
- I. Doodle bug and pad
- J. "Wet Floor" signs
- K. Gloves and goggles
- L. Protective footwear

Products:

- 1. Stripper
- 2. Neutralizer, if necessary
- 3. Baseboard stripper
- 4. Clear water

Procedures:

I. Purpose of Stripping Floors

II. Put on personal protective equipment

- A. Thorough stripping and rinsing is the basis for:
 - 1. Sealer to penetrate the surface of the tile.
 - 2. Rejuvenating the tile colors.
 - 3. Building a strong foundation and maximum adhesion for subsequent finish layers.
- B. When is it time to strip?
 - i. The finish begins to build up.
 - ii. The floor begins to change color.
 - iii. Mopping, spray buffing and re waxing no longer give desired results.

III. Procedure for Stripping

- A. Remove as much furniture as possible from the area to be stripped.
 - 1. If heavy, seek help.

- B. Dust mop the floor thoroughly before beginning stripping.
 - 1. This will remove all loose material that could cut or scratch the floor during the stripping operation.
- C. Remove gum, tar and other foreign material from the floor with a stand up scraper.
- D. Move all equipment and tools to area to be stripped prior to beginning work.
- E. Place "Wet Floor" signs at every entrance.
- F. Put on gloves and personal protection equipment. Apply baseboard stripper.
 - 1. Apply product to baseboards and 3" of floor edge.
 - 2. Be careful not to spray walls and painted surfaces.
 - 3. Let set 2-3 minutes.
 - 4. Reapply if drying out.
 - 5. Agitate with doodle bug.
 - 6. Rinse area with rinse mop using clear water.
- G. Mix the stripper solution.
 - 1. Always wear gloves.
 - 2. Pour the stripper into hot water, following manufacturer's directions.
- H. Put on protective footwear.
 - 1. Protect your feet and shoes.
 - 2. Gives a better grip on slippery floor.
- I. Apply stripper solution liberally to the floor.
 - 1. Start along the edge of the area.
 - 2. Fill in the rest of the area in a figure eight motion.
 - 3. Cover an area 100 - 150 square feet at a time.
 - 4. Let solution stand 3-5 minutes.
 - 5. Do not let stripping solution dry out. Reapply solution prior to scrubbing, if necessary.
- J. Machine scrub the wetted area thoroughly.
 - 1. Use the 175 machine and stripping pad of your choice.
 - 2. Move from where your feet are on dry floor into the stripping solution.

- K. Pick up the stripping solution.
 - 1. Squeegee to a central location.
 - 2. Pick up with wet/dry vacuum.
- L. Rinse the stripped area thoroughly.
 - 1. Rinse two or three times with clear water.
 - 2. If a high alkaline stripper was used:
 - a. A neutralizer is recommended in the first rinse *only*.
 - b. Follow with one clear water rinse.
 - c. Only two rinses saves time and labor.
 - 3. After final rinse, wipe down baseboards again to clean up splashes from stripping operation.
- M. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly before applying seal.
- N. Wipe your hand across the floor and if a white powder is visible on the palm of your hand, rinse and allow to dry again.
- O. Clean all equipment, wipe cords dry, and store for future use.
- P. Floor is now free of all sealer, finishes, dust, grime, gum and other foreign matter. It is ready for the first sealer coat.