

GLOSSARY OF CLEANING, SANITIZING AND MAINTENANCE TERMS

A

Acid - A chemical substance with pH less than 7 that reacts with and neutralizes an alkali.

Acrylic - Type of polymer used in floor finishes. Also, a man made synthetic fiber used in spun yam to resemble wool in carpet.

Adhesion - A Necessary characteristic of a floor finish, which causes it to bond to the floor rather than peel, flake or powder.

Algaecide - Product which destroys algae.

Alkali - A chemical substance with pH greater than 7 that reacts with and neutralizes an acid. Also called alkaline or base.

Alkalinity - Alkalinity is useful in removing acidic, fatty and oily soils. Detergent products can be formulated at any level of alkalinity to meet cleaning performance requirements.

Ammonia - An alkaline gas composed of nitrogen and hydrogen (NH₃). 5% to 10% solutions of ammonia in water are sold as household ammonia. Ammonia is used to aid in removing grease and dirt from surfaces and to boost the cleaning power in grease cutters, wax strippers and general purpose soil removers.

Anionic - Negatively charged part of a molecule. Anionic surfactants are widely used in high sudsing detergents.

Antimicrobial - Agent which inhibits or destroys bacteria, fungi, protozoa or viruses that are pathogenic.

Antiseptic - any substance which will destroy or inhibit the growth of micro-organism microbes, particularly in the skin.

Antistat - substance which reduces or prevents static electricity.

A.O.A.C. Method - Association of Official Analytical Chemists' method of determining phenolcoefficient and kill -effectiveness of disinfectant and sanitizing products.

Asphalt Tile - A floor tile manufactured with a mixture of synthetic fibers, lime, rock mineral fillers and coloring. Asphalt is used to bind the material together.

B

Bacteriostat - Compound inhibits or stops bacterial from multiplying and growing without actually killing them.

Biodegradable - Capability of organic matter to be decomposed by biological process.

Bleach - a product that cleans, whitens, removes stains and brightens fabrics. It also removes stains on some hard surfaces.

Brighteners - Optical or fluorescent enhancers found in carpet and fabric cleaning products.

Broad Spectrum - Killing a wide variety of Gram - (Negative) and Gram + (Positive) organisms.

Browning (Brown Out) - A reaction that occurs in carpets when high pH solutions cause the carpet's natural coloring in the backing (usually jute) to travel up the fiber strand and discolor the carpet. Easily cured with de browning product applications.

Buffer - Any substance in a fluid which tends to resist a change in pH when acid or alkali is added. Also a slang term for a floor machine.

Butyl Cellosolve - a trademark name for a water-soluble solvent frequently used in degreasing products. Actual name of slang term "butyl."

C

C.F.M. - Cubic Feet per Minute, amount of air generated by a vacuum motor.

Calcium Carbonate - an inorganic compound that naturally occurs as chalk or limestone. Its very slight solubility in water is a chief cause of "hardness" in water.

Carnauba - Natural polishing wax which is derived from the leaves of the carnauba palm tree in Brazil. Average yield per year from a tree is approximately four to five ounces of wax.

Cationic Surfactant - A surfactant that is from a positively charged ionic group. The most common cationic surfactants are known as quaternary ammonium compounds such as alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride. These are widely used as

Ceramic Tile - Clay tile with impervious, usually glossy, layer on the surface.

Chelating Agent - An organic sequestering agent used to inactivate hard water and other metallic ions in water.

Chlorine Bleach - A group of strong oxidizing agents commonly sold in approximately 5% solution of sodium hypochlorite. As a laundry additive, liquid chlorine removes stains, aids in soil removal, whitens, disinfects and deodorizes. Dry forms of chlorine bleach are frequently used in cleansers and automatic

dishwasher detergents. Bleach should not be used with silk, woollens, dyes sensitive to hypochlorite, and on certain stains such as rust (which it can set). Chlorine bleach deactivates enzymes in laundry cleaners.

Cleanser - A powdered or liquid cleaning product generally containing abrasives, a surfactant and frequently a bleach.

Conductive Floors - special resilient tile that is designed to drain off or prevent static electricity. Frequently used in computer rooms.

Corrosion Inhibitor - Substance which protects against oxidation of metal surfaces.

Corrosive - Substance which cause skin and eye damage at the site of contact.

C.S.S.A. - Canadian Sanitary Supply Association.

Curing - a chemical aging process that allows floor finishes to bond to a floor surface.

D

Damp Mop - Mopping with a mop wrung out tightly in a cleaning solution containing mild detergents, disinfectant or sanitizing agents.

Defoamer - Substance used to reduce or eliminate foam.

Degreaser - A product specifically formulated to remove grease, oil, and greasy soils.

Deodorant - a product for destroying, masking or eliminating offensive odors.

Disinfectant - An agent that destroys harmful bacteria and or viruses on inanimate surfaces (except spores). Most common types include Quaternary Ammonium Compounds, Phenolic Compounds, Pine Oil (at least 70%). Products making disinfectant claims must be registered with the EPA or PCP. An assigned ERA or PCP number must be displayed on the container.

E

Emollient - An ingredient for making skin soft.

Emulsification - The action of breaking up fats, oils and other soils into small particles which are then suspended in a solution.

Enzyme - Proteins molecules produced within an organism that are used as catalysts for biochemical reactions. Often used to enhance cleansing products.

E.P.A. - Environmental Protection Agency of the United States Government. Has responsibility to regulate the environment.

Exposure Limit - The limit set to minimize an employee's exposure to a hazardous material. Associated terms include Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL), Short Term Exposure Limit (STEL) and Threshold Limit Value (TLV).

F

Fading - Loss of color caused by actinic radiation such as sunlight, atmospheric gases and cleaning or bleach chemicals.

Fatty Acid - An organic (mostly commonly tallow and coconut oil) substance which reacts with a base to form soap.

Fungi (Fungus) - Vegetable organisms that lack chlorophyll and are filamentous. Fungus includes mold, mildew, yeast and mushrooms.

G

Gel - A colloid in a semi-solid state, having a "jelly" like consistency.

Germicide - Any substance that kills germs. A disinfectant.

Grains Hardness - A measure of water hardness, that accurate amount of dissolved calcium and magnesium salts measured in parts per million, in a gallon of water.

Gram Positive and Gram Negative - Classification of bacteria by their reaction to staining. A dye is applied to bacteria, and those that remain permanently stained are Gram positive. If the stain is easily removed they are Gram negative. Staph and strep are examples of Gram positive bacteria. Pseudomonas and salmonella are examples of Gram negative.

Grout - Matrix between ceramic tile on walls and floors.

H

Heeling - Technique of applying pressure to the edge of a floor machine and pad to remove black shoe marks and persistent soil.

High Speed Floor Finish - Floor finish specifically designed to be used with and respond to a high-speed floor machine.

Hospital-Type Disinfectant - Kills most germs due to a special combination of disinfectant ingredients. More terminology than fact.

Hydrochloric Acid (HCL) - Also known as muriatic acid. Used in toilet bowl cleansers in varying dilutions. Hydrogen Chloride.

Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) - A highly corrosive inorganic acid often found in commercial rust removers and stain removers. Use with extreme caution.

I

Inorganic - A substance not made of the combination of carbon and hydrogen.

Iodophor - Combination of iodine and detergent used for disinfecting.

I.S.S.A. - International Sanitary Supply Association

Ionic Compatibility - Electrical charges in chemical formulations similar to the North and South poles on a magnet. The charges indicate to the formulating chemist the compatibility of various ionic or non-ionic chemical products. Blending or cross use of chemical products that do not possess compatible ions will render the products useless for their intended purpose.

L

LD50 - The dose that will kill 50 percent of the test animals in a controlled environment. LD = Lethal dose measured in milligrams per kilogram of body weight.

Level Agent - Substance added to floor coating, which allows it to flow evenly in application and to help prevent "puddling".

M

Metal Interlock - Detergent and water resistant type of floor finish with a metal salt in the solution.

Micron - 1/25,000 of an inch.

Muriatic - Commercial name given to hydrochloric acid.

N

Neutral - A chemical state that is neither acid nor alkali (base); 7 on the pH scale.

Neutralizer - Chemical to change the pH of a surface so that residues will not interfere with floor coating adhesion.

Non-Chlorine Bleach - A laundry product containing peroxygen compounds, which release active oxygen in the wash water. This type product produces gentler bleaching action than chlorine bleach.

Non-Ionic Surfactant - A surface active agent that contains neither positive nor negatively charged (ionic) functional groups. These surfactants have been found to be especially effective in removing oily soil.

O

Olefin - Any long chain synthetic polymer composed of at least 85% by weight of ethylene, propylene or other olefin units. It is used in the manufacture of carpets and matting.

Opacifier - Substance which does not permit the transmission of light; a cloudy agent. It is used to reduce a soap's translucence or to make a bar of soap white or a desired color.

Rotary Brush Carpet Cleaning - A carpet cleaning technique in which a detergent solution is worked into the carpet pile by a brush attached to a rotary buffing machine. Loosened soil is usually removed by vacuuming, commonly called shampooing.

S

Sanitizer - An agent that reduces the number of bacteria to a safe level, but does not completely eliminate them, as judged by public health requirements. Usually in food service areas.

Saponification - The process of converting a fat into a soap by treating it with an alkali. Also the process used by some cleaners to remove grease and oil.

Scale - Calcium or mineral deposits in steam boilers and in steam and water pipes.

Secondary Backing - The fabric reinforcement that is laminated to the back or bottom of a tufted carpet to provide strength and stability.

Sequestering Agents - Chemicals that tie up water hardness and prevents the precipitation of hard water salts. This action causes clarity in liquid soap.

Shelf Life - The time between manufacturing and the time that a product becomes spoiled, unusable or ineffective because of age.

Sizing - A product that provides a coating such as starch.

Slip Coefficient - A measurement of the coefficient of friction as measured on the James machine, and instrument used to test the static coefficient of friction of a surface. U.L. considers 0.5 or above the safe limit.

Slurry - A temporary suspension of insoluble solids or immiscible liquids in a carrier base. Usually refers to the suspension of dirt or the thick, dark, soapy mixture created when stripping a floor.

Solid Content - The amount of ingredients in a floor finish that do not evaporate or volatilize at 105C.

Spray Buff - An intermediate floor care procedure which cleans, removes black marks and shines the wear areas of the floor. Utilizes a sprayed solution, a floor machine and a synthetic floor pad.

Stripper - Specially formulated detergent which breaks the bond of floor wax and finish, when used as directed, without damaging floor materials.

Surfactant - Surface-active agent which increases the emulsifying, foaming, dispersing, spreading and wetting properties of a product.

Suspension - Chemicals that when combined have a greater effect than the sum of the two independently.

T

Tackiness - A sticky or adhesive condition that is a property of applied floor finishes, when not completely dried.

Tack Rag - a cloth, dampened in solution, that is used to remove surface particles, (lint, dust, floor pad abrasive) prior to refinishing a surface.

Terrazzo - A non-resilient floor material composed of marble and Portland cement.

Tucker Pole - Special multi-story outside window-washing tool.

Traffic Lane - High traffic areas that show worn or soiled "lanes".

Tri-Sodium Phosphate (TSP) - A highly alkaline water softener sometimes used as a cleaning agent.

U

U.L. - Underwriters Laboratories. An organization that test manufactured products for safety.

U.S.D.A. - United States Department of Agriculture, which approves meat and poultry plant cleaners.

Urethane - A synthetic resin, ethyl carbonate, used in protective coatings for wood, concrete and metal.

Use-Dilution - The final concentration at which a product is used.

V

Vinyl Asbestos Tile (VAT) - Floor tile composed of vinyl resin, plasticizers, asbestos fibers, mineral fillers and color pigment formed into a given thickness and cut into tile size.

Virus - A group of filterable infective agents that require the presence of living cells in order to multiply.

Viscosity - The thickness of a liquid which determines pour-ability. The resistance of flow is measured in relationship to water in centipoise (cp). Water has a viscosity of 1 cp.

Vitreous China - Ceramic, non-porous material used in toilets and urinals.

Volatile - The part of a product that evaporated during drying.

W

Waterlift - An efficiency rating for vacuums used to pick up water. Tells how many inches the water would be raised if "lifted" in a measuring column.

Water Hardness - A measure of the amount of metallic salts found in water. Hard water can inhibit the action of some surfactants and reduce the effectiveness of the cleaning.

Wetting Agent - A chemical that reduces surface tension of water, allowing it to spread more freely.

WHMIS - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System. A policy implemented by the Workers Compensation Board to inform workers of the hazards of materials used in the workplace. This policy has standardized visual labels and symbols indicating the hazards and safety measures required for use of some materials.