

## **FLOOR STRIPPING**

### **PURPOSE**

**To remove a floor finish when any of the following occurs:**

- 1) The color begins to turn.
- 2) The finish begins to build up.
- 3) Mopping, spray buffing or re-waxing does not give the desired results.

### **SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

- Dustmop
- Broom and dustpan
- Putty knife
- Wet floor signs
- Wet / Dry vacuum
- Buckets on casters with wringers
- Floor stripping solution
- Floor machine with drive pad or stripping brush
- Clean floor stripping pads - either Black or Brown
- Clean mop handles with clean wet mops
- Hand pads and holder for edge cleaning
- Stripper neutralizer
- Waterproof shoe coverings with safety non-slip tread.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **1) Prepare area**

- a) Place "Wet Floor" signs in easy-to-see locations at entrances to area where floor is being scrubbed.
- b) Move furniture. Work around heavy furniture that cannot be moved. Tilt file cabinets and put on blocks. Remove gum and other foreign material with a putty knife.
- c) Dust mop or vacuum the floor.
- d) Place the stripping pad or brush on the floor machine.
- e) Set equipment in the area where the work will begin.
- f) Begin stripping floor in the furthest corner.

#### **2) Prepare equipment**

Fill a bucket with the diluted stripping solution. Fill a second bucket two-thirds with clean water. Take the equipment to the work area.

\*Note: it is important to note whether the product label specifies warm, hot or cold water, if not specified,

use warm. Hot water can loosen tile adhesive and cause solution to dry too fast. Some strippers will not work in cold water. The temperature of your water will directly affect the chemical reaction of your stripper. Follow the label instructions.

### **3) Apply stripping solution**

Dip mop head into stripping solution. Apply liberally to floor surface. Fan out the mop head on the floor and start applying the solution at the edges generously spread the stripping solution over a 100 to 125 square foot area at a time. Allow the solution to work on the floor for the recommended time (usually at least 5 minutes depending on build-up). Do not allow the stripper to dry.

\*Note: most build-up is at the edges of the floor. A baseboard stripper or edge cleaning equipment may be needed. Wipe down any splashes.

### **4) Machine scrubbing**

Using the floor machine scrub along baseboards. Then strip side to side over the remaining area. Overlap the strokes made by the machine. Use die hand scrub pad to detail strip along the edges and in the corners of the room.

### **5) Pick up dirty solution**

Use a wet / dry vacuum or a damp mop to pick up the stripper from the floor. Do not allow the solution to dry on the floor. If all the old finish and dirt is not removed, repeat the operation before doing the next section.

### **6) Rinse and dry floor**

Use a clean mop and clean water. Add neutralizer concentrate per the instructions. A neutralized floor gives a much better bond of finish to the floor. Cover area liberally with neutralizer rinse water. Pick up the excess rinse water with the wet / dry vacuum. Wipe all baseboards before they are allowed to dry.

### **7) Final rinse**

Damp mop the floor with clear water for the final rinse and to insure that all stripper solution has been removed. Allow the floor to dry after final rinse.

\*Note: check floor to be sure it is ready for finish by wiping your hand across a section of the floor. If a white powder comes up, the floor has not been rinsed properly and must be rinsed until no white powder comes up after the floor is dry. The floor is now ready to be sealed and / or finished.

### **8) Clean up**

Immediately clean up equipment at the conclusion of the procedure. All buckets and wringers must be thoroughly washed, rinsed and allowed to dry. All mops must be thoroughly washed and hung to dry, away from walls. All other equipment is either washed or wiped down and stored in the proper location.