

# WINTER FLOOR CARE & EQUIPMENT TIPS OF THE TRADE

Be sure to continually educate yourself and fellow team members as to the latest product / process innovation available in the marketplace. Continuing to clean your facility in the same manner as in the past may not meet today's need for clean, safer spaces. Use this tool for training for all levels of cleaning procedures.

## **Tip 1**

When vacuuming up water on floors, matting or carpeting, never use your dry upright vacuums in these areas. Even though they will pick-up moisture, the life expectancy of your equipment will dramatically shorten! Use a specific wet vacuum designed for this use

## **Tip 2**

Pre-sweep and dispose of large debris, rocks, salt, paper clips and wood chips preventing damage to vacuums, brushes and motors. This will prolong the life expectancy.

## **Tip 3**

Assign/identify one particular vacuum to be used for wet pick-up only.

## **Tip 4**

Prevent the vacuum from hitting the walls. You will extend the life of the vacuum and keep the building looking like new. You will project a better image of "yourself" at the same time.

## **Tip 5**

Always check the condition of the three prong plug and electrical cords on vacuums and swing machines for safety and avoidable electric shock.

## **Tip 6**

When dry vacuums are run in wet conditions, replace the filter, collector bag, open the door allowing it to air dry and raise off the floor preventing the transfer of rust.

## **Tip 7**

Never nose-dive the beater bar or brush. Prematurely wears out brushes, belts and bearings.

## **Tip 8**

Notify your supervisor of needed repairs or problems before they become more serious and costly. Problems caught at an early stage simply cost less and clean more efficiently.

## **Tip 9**

Spot grease moving parts monthly. Especially wet mop buckets, wringers and wheels.

## **Tip 10**

Never leave the machine unattended, unlocked or plugged in a wall outlet. Someone else may decide to operate it without the best interest in health & safety in mind.

## **Tip 11**

Always rinse out your recovery tank on both automatic scrubbers and wet vacuums. This prevents foul odours, the serious spread of bacteria, rust and preventable repairs.

## **Tip 12**

Leave the lid off the recovery tank of auto scrubbers and wet vacs to allow proper air circulation and lowering the risk of cross contamination

## **Tip 13**

Remove or raise floor pads off the floor when using scrubbers and swing machines. This prevents pad from flattening, pad holder warpage and premature wear of your floor pads. Rinse floor pads out and hang to dry after each use.

## **Tip 14**

After use, squeegees on automatic floor scrubbers should be cleaned and raised off the floor to prevent curling of rubbers and streaking.

## **Tip 15**

Report all operating problems or concerns with equipment to your supervisor

## **Tip 16**

Statistics prove that preventative maintenance programs operate at a higher efficiency, reducing repair costs dramatically and prolonging the life of the equipment, lowering costs.

## **Tip 17**

Instead of using a typical neutral cleaner, use a specific winter floor cleaner to eliminate the white wintry residue left behind on your shiny floors. These winter specific cleaners save labour by quickly eliminating the white film in one cleaning application.

Use in auto scrubbers, wet mop buckets and carpet extractors.

This will prolong the life of your floor finish and reduce tracking the white film throughout your facility.

**Tip 18**

Use the same product above in your carpet extractor to remove the white residue from your entrance matting.

**Tip 19**

During the winter or major snow storms, change your floor cleaning solution more often to provide a better end result. Cleaners only go so far when subjected to harsh winter conditions.

**Tip 20**

Change your cleaning schedule to allow more frequent wet mopping on those harsh winter days. You will be amazed how beneficial one more wet mop will be especially in high traffic areas.

**Tip 21**

Keep your cleaning solution at the same dilution during the winter months. More is not better. You will leave white films, bite into your floor finish and dull the surface

**Tip 22**

Hot water dries faster. Eliminates slip & fall incidents when short of time. The use of air circulation fans will also shorten dry time.

**Tip 23**

Rotate your inventory of liquid products in the storage closets. Usually, product is good for 2-3 years. Keep the caps on at all times and containers away from boilers, furnaces, etc.

**Tip 24**

Always complete a light scrub & re-coat before winter sets in. The little time it takes now will pay-off and save you intensive labour from having to deep strip in the springtime.

You need a protective base of either sealer or finish to get you through the winter months. You would be surprised how an extra coat or two of finish will eliminate staining and prolong the life of your floors. Let the finish take the abuse, not you.

**Tip 25**

Always use multiple wet floor signs when mopping or conducting cleaning tasks. Protect yourself, occupants, customers and visitors in your facility.

**Tip 26**

Place an extra piece of new or old entrance matting during those bad winter storms in the highest traffic areas or near the outside entrances of your facilities. It may not be a matching colour but it will work and save you wet mopping labour and damage to floors.

**Tip 27**

Periodically remove or lift up the entranceway matting to wet vacuum or mop.

Excess moisture underneath the matting will cause mould, mildew and foul odours, creating an unsafe environment. Never leave an entrance way with out matting in place.

**Tip 28**

During the day or night when entranceway matting becomes soaking wet, be sure to wet vacuum. This will prevent slip & fall accidents, unnecessary tracking of water, sand and salt in your building plus reduce foul odours from greeting your visitors.

**Tip 29**

A floor squeegee works great for removing excessive water from entrance matting too.

**Tip 30**

After extracting carpets, wet vacuum them twice in order to speed up the dry time.

**Tip 31**

To extend the life of your wet mops, always rinse and wring them out, hanging to dry. This will prevent foul odours and cross contamination from spreading throughout your facility.

**Tip 32**

After use, empty your wet mop buckets and rinse out with clear water or a disinfectant solution. This will eliminate foul odours, cross contamination and bacteria.

**Tip 33**

Dry dust mop as often as possible. Reducing winter grit and salt from entering deep into your building. This will prolong the life of the floor, saving labour, lower the risk of a slip & fall and purchasing additional supplies.

**Tip 34**

Always hang your dust and wet mops up to dry. A tool holder or even a nail will work fine. Just keep them off the floor when not in use.

**Tip 35**

Shovel, sweep and remove as much ice and snow from your sidewalks and outside entrances of your building, keeping winter outside in the parking lot where it belongs.

**Think about it!**



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