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# The Proper Method To Strip Floors

## Purpose

To remove a floor finish when any of the following occurs

- The color begins to turn
- The finish begins to build up
- Mopping, Spray buffing, Burnishing or recoating does not give the desired results.

## Supplies and Equipment

- Two mop buckets w/ wringers
- Two mop handles w/ 20 oz. wet mop heads
- Utility pad holder w/ black pad
- Long handle scraper w/ blade
- Putty knife
- Wet floor signs
- Cleaning cloths
- Protective clothing; gloves, goggles
- Floor stripping boots
- Floor machine w/ pad driver
- Black stripping pads “PT-2000”
- Green scrubbing pads
- Wet vacuum w/ hose, wand and squeegee tool

- Floor stripper “Pour N Peel”, “Onyx” or “One Pass”
- Floor finishes “Omega”, “Flex” or “Ultimate II”
- Small utility pail (applying finish)
- Floor finish mop w/ handle

## Procedure

1. Dust mop or sweep floor area and remove any foreign debris, **i.e.** gum, tar etc.
2. Place “Wet Floor” signs in easy to see locations at entrances to area being stripped.
3. Mix proper solution of stripper with the correct amount of \***COLD** water in your mop bucket with warm water.
4. Mop the diluted stripper over the area to be cleaned (approximately 12' x 12') and allow adequate time for penetration of the stripper. **Do not** allow stripper solution to dry on the floor surface!.
5. After a period of proper chemical reaction has passed (normally 10-15 minutes), agitate the floor surface with

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a floor machine equipped with a “PT-2000” stripping pad. Work with a small circular motion moving about the area you are stripping.

6. Recover all stripper solution with a wet vacuum equipped with the proper floor squeegee tool.
7. **Alternate Rinse Process.** After floor has been completely stripped of all old finish, change floor pad to a clean green or black floor pad. Flood floor surface with clean water (approximately 12' x 12') and agitate with floor machine. Recover water with wet vacuum.
8. Rinse floor surface one last time with a CLEAN mop and CLEAN water.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Check floor to be sure it's ready for finish by wiping your hand across a section of the floor.<br/>If a white powder comes up, the floor has not been thoroughly rinsed and must be rinsed until no white powder comes up after the floor is dry.</li><li>* Wipe all corners and edges prior to finishing.</li><li>* Our recommendations concerning the temperature of water is to use COLD water, never HOT. The use of HOT will result in accelerating the evaporation rate of the stripper. Cold water reduces vapors from your stripper solution.</li></ul> |
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## How To Apply Finish

**Inspect Floor:** Make sure that the floor is thoroughly clean and dry.

**Prepare Area:** Set up "Wet Floor" signs in public areas.

Place a clean towel at your entrance/exit doorway. This helps in reducing sand & grit from being tracked onto your floor during the finish process.

Place a new trash liner in your mop bucket and allow excess to drape over the side of the bucket, this will line the inside of the mop bucket. This process will save clean-up time and avoid contaminating your floor finish.

Place your finish mop into bucket and GENTLY wring out excess material. The most effective way to remove excess material is place the mop into the wringer and push the mop down into the wringer. This will remove all excess finish while eliminating any foam build-up in the bucket. **DO NOT PLACE MOP IN WRINGER AND WRING OUT**, This causes a great deal of foam in the bucket which leads to bubbles in the floor finish.

Apply a thin coat to the perimeter of the area to be finished. It is not necessary to go to the baseboard. We recommend no more than two (2) coats of finish around the perimeter. It is a rare occasion when people walk around the perimeter and scuff the floor. Begin applying the finish in a "figure eight motion". The figure eight motion allows for a 20-25 percent overlap; therefore leaving no missed spots. The first coat should be applied in a north to south direction and additional coats should be alternated in east-west and vice versa on subsequent coats.

This will eliminate any "missed" spots on the floor. Allow floor finish to dry; approximate dry times vary between 20-25 minutes between coats of finish.

A general rule of thumb is, apply enough even coats so the floor "Looks Wet When It's Dry". This can usually be accomplished with 3-5 coats of finish.



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# How To Strip and Refinish Floors



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