

CLEANING UP

News & Views on Our Industry

The Importance of Maintenance for Polished Concrete Floors

While polished concrete is renowned for being low maintenance and abrasion resistant, maintaining a polished floor does require care to sustain its rich, glossy appearance and prevent premature shine deterioration. Although real-time observations of the durability of polished concrete floors are still under way, a polished concrete gloss is said to last a minimum of 7-10 years depending on proper upkeep and geography. However, even the most durable polished concrete floors require proper maintenance. Let's examine some Frequently Asked Questions concerning the primary causes of premature shine deterioration on polished concrete floors:

Question: I was told my polished concrete floor requires *nothing more* than a wash a few times a year. True or False?

Answer: *False* - The number one cause of polished floor deterioration is neglect. The final sheen of a polished floor is created by using increasingly finer grit diamond pads until the surface gleams. Constant foot traffic,

forklifts, pallet jacks, and shopping carts relentlessly pick up foreign soils and redistribute these soils throughout the floor, leaving a scuffed appearance. Remember - polished concrete is LOW maintenance not NO maintenance.

Question: When cleaning and maintaining my polished concrete floor, will water and neutral soap do the trick for removing soil loads?

Answer: *No* - Using water and neutral soap as a cleaning solution is ineffective. Water and soap will not suspend embedded dirt and soil loads on polished concrete floors; rather soil loads remain on the surface. To maintain the beauty of polished concrete floors you must use a formulated pH cleaner to suspend soil loads. CreteClean Plus with Scarguard is specifically designed to address the neutral soap and water problem. As the name implies, CreteClean Plus with Scarguard cleans the floor and at the same time, repairs micro pitting resulting from wear and tear.

Question: I've been told my polished concrete floor is next to bullet proof; does this mean I can use aggressive acids or solvated cleaners/degreasers to wash my floor?

Answer: *No* - Harsh chemicals like acids will etch the surface, causing irreversible effects on the concrete. Products containing acids, high pH, alkalies, or caustic chemicals are not appropriate for a polished floor. Though polished concrete is next to bullet proof, only *approved* industry-known products should be used to maintain polished concrete floors. This is important because in most cases, polished concrete floors come with a minimum 10 year warranty, provided that they are maintained with the *approved* cleaner. These warranties become null and void when *non-approved* cleaning products and incorrect scrub brushes

are used!

Question: It's been suggested I should use abrasive brushes or coarse pads on my auto scrubber to clean my polished concrete floor. True or False?

Answer: *False*. You should never use abrasive brushes or coarse pads! As abrasion resistant as a polished concrete floor is, nothing kills a shine like a coarse brush or pad. When used daily, the *wrong brush* grinds down the surface, reducing the fine, reflective surface to a dull floor. Stripping and scrubbing pads and thick milled nylon brushes are all too rough for polished concrete. The ideal brush is an extremely soft poly brush or a soft 3M pad. These products clean up dirt and debris without scratching the floor.

Question: So then, what is the best way to clean my polished concrete floor, while maintaining its glossy finish?

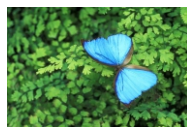
Answer: "The best assurance for a lasting shine on your polished concrete floor is to use only approved polished concrete products when cleaning and maintaining the floor." David Burgess, General Manager of Wesclean's Polished Concrete & Stone Care Division adds, "Since 2006 our Evershine Research and Development team has been working with chemists and equipment engineers to develop cleaning and maintenance products designed specifically to prevent the premature abrasion of polished concrete. Cleaning detergents like CreteClean Plus with Scarguard have a proprietary blend of special cleaning agents with the correct pH to maintain polished concrete floors. CreteClean is strong enough to clean, but

For Info on New Products

Visit www.wesclean.com and click on the "What's New?" link.

CONTENTS

- 1** The Importance of Maintenance for Polished Concrete Floors
- 2** The Importance of Maintenance for Polished Concrete Floors
NEW from PCS!
- 3** The Low Down on Matting
Floor Care Savings Event!
- 4** Wesclean Has Gone Social
Spot the Henrys Contest!
What's New? Regard Garbage Bags!



contains emollients to also moisturize the concrete and repair micro pitting at the same time."

Question: When a concrete polishing contractor leaves the job, as the client, how can I ensure I remain satisfied with my new investment?

Answer: Contact a Wesclean/Evershine resource representative and allow he/she to work with you to establish a simple maintenance schedule to keep your new polished concrete floor in terrific condition! A fairly minimal, yet effective maintenance plan might look like this:

1. Daily Care: For regular removal of surface dirt and debris, the use of an approved gritless non-oil sweeping compound is recommended for warehouse environments. In retail, low traffic environments, the use of a non-oil sweeping compound a minimum of three

times per week is usually sufficient. In high traffic, high soil environments, the use of a 1oz. per gallon dilution of CreteClean Plus with Scarguard in an auto scrubber will deliver optimal results.

2. Weekly Maintenance: Mopping or running an autoscrubber with CreteClean Plus with ScarGuard detergent is recommended weekly, as part of the maintenance schedule for light traffic areas.

3. As Needed: For stains that may occur, use Consolideck's Concrete Spill Kit. Be sure *not* to use heavy-duty or extra-strong degreasers made of dilmonine, as these will definitely cause a problem for polished concrete floors. For light spills and stains, CreteClean Plus with ScarGuard can also be used with a mop or autoscrubber.

To summarize, use only approved cleaning detergents such as CreteClean Plus with

Scarguard, soft polybristle brushes, or soft 3M pads on autoscrubbers when cleaning and maintaining a polished concrete floor. When removing stains, use Consolideck Concrete Spill Kit or CreteClean Plus with ScarGuard with a mop or autoscrubber. Finally, be sure to establish and follow your maintenance plan! How well your maintenance program is established and followed is directly related to how long your floor stays in great condition; this is the easiest way to protect your investment!

Thank you to Evershine for providing this article. For more information on polished concrete floors or on establishing a polished concrete maintenance program, please contact your local Wesclean Sales Rep.

1.888.337.2929 • www.wesclean.com

C. difficile as a Cleaning Problem New Deep Cleaning Process Beats Disinfection

PCS is proud to introduce the new MicroClean Deep Cleaning Process, which promises to change the industry's view on cleaning and disinfection. In a nutshell, removing bacteria beats trying to kill them.

Deep cleaning works by physically removing pathogens from environmental surfaces. The new MicroClean process has been independently validated to physically remove soil, bacteria and bacterial spores to levels equal or better than those that disinfectants are required to kill bacteria. MicroClean Deep Cleaning Process validation testing by an independent third party laboratory demonstrated physical removal of 99.9999% (a 'six log' reduction) of bacteria/bacterial spores in the presence of artificial soil, with all post cleaning tests having no reported colony growth. The MicroClean Deep Cleaning Process is a process of physical removal similar to hand washing, but applicable to environmental surfaces. The way it is accomplished is with a unique cleaning solution which acts synergistically when combined with new microfiber cleaning technology in a carefully ordered cleaning process.

1 Application to surface

MicroClean is diluted 20 parts water to 1 part cleaner. Spray or apply MicroClean to surface. *This step dissolves soil and loosens adhered bacteria/bacterial spores and soil.*



2 Application of friction and removal/rinsing

Take pre dampened PCS Microfibre cloth with a solution of MicroClean diluted 256 parts water with 1 part cleaner, and wipe surface in 2 directions, adding friction. *This step removes soil, bacteria/bacterial spores.*

3 Thorough drying of surface

Use a dry PCS microfibre cloth and wipe surfaces dry. *This step removes residual soil, bacterial and bacterial spores.*



For more information on these and other products, contact your local Wesclean branch at 1-888-337-2929 or visit www.wesclean.com

The Low-Down on Matting

The Benefits of Owning Vs. Renting

The most common objection that customers give to the purchase of mats is that they rent their matting. Rental mats provide an obvious convenience factor for the customer, however, there are issues to consider that purchasing may resolve:

1. Rental mats provide a limited range of mat widths, lengths, and colors.
2. Dye lots may be inconsistent and not match throughout the facility.
3. Rental mats are usually only wiper mats. A complete matting system requires the use of both scraper and wiper mats.
4. Maintenance staff often end up vacuuming rental mats on a daily basis as part of their cleaning routine.
5. You can often purchase a mat for the same cost as renting the same mat for 4-5 months.
6. In the summer months, less matting is required. Does your contract adapt to summer requirements?
7. Rental mats normally have grippers on the back to help keep them from shifting when placed on carpeted surfaces. The issue of mats shifting can be resolved for purchased mats as well with Matgrip II, Slip-Chek or T-Baud.

In conclusion,

1. Mat purchasing is more cost effective.
2. Mat purchasing provides more variety in soil protection.
3. Mat purchasing provides a wider selection when it comes to aesthetics.
4. Mat purchasing provides a wider selection when it comes to dimensions.

Don't believe us? Try it and See! Contact your local sales rep at 1.888.337.2929 to discuss your matting options today!

Special on
through the
month of
September!

Savings
of 25%

BUY 3
GET 1
FREE

\$85.92 ea.



Item code: 0530010
9.5L 2/case

Pioneer BrightStar UHS Floor Coating

Durable, ultra high-speed coating that produces a tough finish with an appearance that stands out! Coating has a white appearance off the mop which results in a very clear & bright film once it dries. Excellent scrub back properties in high or low burnish programs. Easy to repair.

\$90.70 ea.



Item code: 0590136
9.5L 2/case

BUY 3
GET 1
FREE

Pioneer EnviroStar Green Low Odor Stripper

Formulated to remove both GREEN and conventional zinc cross-linked floor coatings and sealers. Emulsifies coatings and sealers in minimum time. Stripper is low odor, low foaming, and GREEN for the environment!

Your FREE product will appear on your invoice at no charge.

EDMONTON

11450 - 149 Street
Edmonton, AB T5M 1W7
(780) 451-1533 Fax (780) 452-0676

CALGARY

36 Highfield Circle SE
Calgary, AB T2G 5N5
(403) 243-0677 • Fax (403) 243-2095

RED DEER

#7, 7973 - 49 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4P 2V5
(403) 340-8003 • Fax (403) 347-8803

GRANDE PRAIRIE

10136 - 128 Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1E9
(780) 538-3380 • Fax (780) 539-7277

LETHBRIDGE

#9, 3205 - 6 Avenue N
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5C1
(403) 327-1120 • Fax (403) 327-1670

MEDICINE HAT

#3 1311 Trans Canada Way SE
Medicine Hat, AB T1B 1J1
(403) 526-7922 • Fax (403) 529-0790

BURNABY

4082 McConnell Court
Burnaby, BC V5A 3L8
(604) 421-7150 • Fax (604) 421-2504

VICTORIA

#2, 6809 Kirkpatrick Crescent
Saanichton, BC V8M 1Z8
(250) 544-1280 • Fax (250) 544-1290

KAMLOOPS

#9, 953 Laval Crescent
Kamloops, BC V2C 5P4
(250) 372-1714 • Fax (250) 372-5535

CRANBROOK

220 Slater Road
Cranbrook, BC V1C 5C8
(250) 426-6816 • Fax (250) 426-3353

REGINA

693 Henderson Drive
Regina, SK S4N 6A8
(306) 781-7103 • Fax (306) 522-1921

SASKATOON

1505 Ontario Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1S7
(306) 382-1199 • Fax (306) 955-5215

WINNIPEG

2-1832 King Edward Street
Winnipeg, MB R2R 0N1
(204) 985-1330 • Fax (204) 889-1762

P: 888-337-2929

W: www.wesclean.com

WESCLEAN HAS GONE SOCIAL!



Wesclean has recently created social media pages to help us interact directly with you, our customer. Click the icons on the bottom of our webpage at www.wesclean.com to visit our Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube pages.

Be sure to 'like' us on Facebook, 'follow' us on Twitter, view our profile on LinkedIn, or watch our YouTube channel to interact with us, receive unique web-only specials, view our sale flyers online, learn about new products, view cleaning tips/guides online, and more!

**Did you spot the
Henrys hidden in this
issue of Cleaning Up?**



Tell us how many Henrys you counted by e-mailing us at **mail@wesclean.com** for a chance to win lots of great Henry-inspired prizes from NaceCare!

*This Henry should not be counted when participating in this contest.

What's New?



REGARD GARBAGE BAGS

A virtual bag-within-a-bag construction helps minimize and localize punctures when they happen. These garbage bags are EcoLogo and ECP (Environment Canada Program) certified and made with Co-EX technology, materials, and processes that allow excellent puncture and tear strength. Bags are "Best in Class" concerning such attributes as energy use, amount of recycled material, and post-consumer waste retrieved and reused. REGARD bags are made to provide greater stretch than normal liners due to cross linking of multiple layers of film. Full range of sizes available.



*Cleaning Up is published
bimonthly by*



Working together for a
cleaner environment

OUR MISSION: To deliver in a timely and efficient manner superior cleaning products and excellence of service that meets and exceeds all our customer's requirements helping them perform their roles with efficiency and cost effectiveness. To treat employees and associates with fairness and respect and to be supportive to our suppliers in product and market development which will solidify our position as Western Canada's top distributor.