

Stripping or Light Scrubbing and Waxing

Assess your floor to see which method you will use:

- Strip
- Light Scrub
- Polish(buff) and wax
- Auto scrub and wax

Stripping

Stripping a floor means taking it right down to the bare manufactured floor using a powerful chemical stripper and a black floor pad. This is the most aggressive and damaging thing you can do to a floor. It is only necessary about once every five years or so. With modern floor waxes, stripping does not have to be done very often. (The old waxes used to yellow from UV rays so this made removing all of the finish a regular job).

Light Scrubbing

Light scrubbing a floor means you are taking the top layer of dirt and scratches off the floor. You use soap instead of stripper and a less aggressive pad like a blue or green. It is less work, and has health benefits too. The soap is not as strong as the stripper. If you have a floor maintenance program you can get away with light scrubbing most of the time.

Polish(buff) and Wax

Not very desirable but will do when time is short. You wash the floor (with **neutralizer**) and remove all of the marks from the floor, spray buff and lay a coat of wax. It is not a preferred method because spray buffing puts chemical into the air and you the Custodian inhale it. (**read your MSDS!**)

Auto Scrub and Wax

If your floor finish is in good condition (and it should be if you have an auto scrubber) you can remove all of the marks from the floor, and run **neutralizer** in the machine with a blue pad and lay a coat or two of wax. Christmas and March break.

Steps to strip and wax a floor

1. Remove all furniture from room (or to one side if preferred).
2. Sweep the floor removing gum etc.
3. Put on any PPE as required. e.g. Stripping boots, respirator, safety glasses, gloves(use a fan or leave mechanical ventilation on).
4. Lay down your stripping solution (mixed using measuring cup and water temperature as per directions).
5. Allow solution to work for a few minutes(not too long or it will evaporate)
6. Scrub the floor using a black pad. Go around the outside edges first (clockwise so solution is directed inward). Then go back and forth left to right slowly overlapping by half the pad. This is of course assuming you have been trained on or are familiar with a floor scrubber.
7. At this point go around the edges with a floor squeegee to pull the solution out from the baseboards(If you pick this up with the wet pick up or the auto scrubber, you will stretch your rinse water).
8. This step is the most important part of floor care - **neutralizing**. If you have an auto scrubber, then you will have it filled with cold **neutral** rinse water. If you don't then you will have two mop buckets filled with cold water and **neutralizer**.

Method 1 - Auto scrubber - Run the machine with the squeegee down and pick up the stripper. Then drop the pad (blue), turn on the **neutralizer** and run the machine over the floor twice.

Method 2 - Wet pick up - run the wet pick up machine over the stripper and pick up the solution. Then rinse with **neutralizer**. This must be done twice as well. This is why you use two pails.

9. Neutralizing - after your floor has been thoroughly rinsed with **neutralizer**, run your wet mop around the baseboards to take off any stripper along the edges. Have a scraper handy to pick up any dirt from the corners/edges(sometimes I make a pole scraper - no bending).

After your floor is dry, you are ready for wax.

Waxing Tips

- ◆ Use a rayon mop - it is manmade and releases few fibers and weighs less.
- ◆ Use a sealer wax to take the guesswork and storage problems out.
- ◆ On the first coat, unload the wax from your mop and go around the edges first with a very light coat.(No one walks along the edges).
- ◆ then load your mop up and go back and forth in a figure eight applying a light coat.
- ◆ When your floor is finished, allow as much time as possible before your next coat.
- ◆ On your next coat (up to three) go in 6 inches further from the edge and so on for each coat.
- ◆ Replace the furniture.

