

## Metal-Max for Brass!

For many years, the market for a brass 'cleaner and polish' has been dominated by a product we all know, and it has performed very well it must be said.

The trouble is, the manufacturers have deleted the 5 litre and then the 1 litre containers it was supplied in. So this product which was never cheap, has become dearer again when you consider the cost of the 250ml pack, the only size now available.

Well, there is another option! It's a product we make called **Metal-Max**, a complex blend of food acids, natural surfactants and special polishing compounds, with a pleasant lemon fragrance.

This rich and powerful metal polish gives excellent results on brass handrails and fittings. It can also be used to clean and polish stainless steel surfaces as well as copper, enamel and ceramics. It gives great results on sinks, baths and basins – even irons, pots and pans!

Whenever a metal surface has changed colour, whether due to spillages, heating or tarnishing, **Metal-Max** will remove the discolouration, and polish up the surface to the original colour and a beautiful new shine.

**Metal-Max** is available in a 1 litre pack. Shake well before use.

## Take Care Of Those Mops!

The humble string mop is still a vital piece of equipment in cleaning, but we often see the mop neglected.

With little enough time to clean all of the floor areas, it seems there is no time left for cleaning the mops themselves. The thing is, you're not really cleaning the floor if the mop is not clean to begin with.

At the end of a shift, the mops must be thoroughly cleaned, rinsed, sanitised and hung up to dry. Why?

1. Soil contains millions of bacteria (germs). If any soil is left in a damp cotton mop, these bacteria will multiply and very soon the mop will smell mouldy and start growing mildew. Do you want the building you have cleaned to smell musty because the mops in the cleaner's locker have a bad odour?
2. When the next shift begins, where is the soil in the mop going to go? All over the floor. On a black, glossy, polished granite floor, this will show up as a dirty, smeary film that will bring complaints. Even on white tiles, no one wants a film of bad-smelling bacteria spread across the floor.
3. A sanitiser will kill the bacteria and stop the mops from turning musty. Agar **SANITISER, LEMON, TANGO** or **BLEACH** can be used for this purpose.
4. If there is no airflow in the cleaner's room, the mops may not dry. If this is a problem, try moving them to another place that has air-flow.

The other thing to remember is to replenish mopping solutions regularly during the shift. As good as our detergents are, if your mopping solution looks like mud, what do you think the mop will carry back onto the floor (even if it's tightly wrung out)?

You only need to think of the very specific processes required to remove dirt and bacteria from microfibre cloths. String mops may be easier to clean, but they still need cleaning to promote both hygiene and productive cleaning.

## CARPET CLEANING REMINDER – GENTEEL

As carpet cleaning activity increases with Christmas approaching, you may wish to try our GENTEEL hot water extraction detergent. GENTEEL is totally safe on wool, yet it is very effective on synthetic fibres as well. GENTEEL can do all your carpet cleaning, with great results, and no risk whatever the carpet.

## Drums too heavy, bottles too small?

We need your feedback.

The shift in sales volume from 20L drums to 5L bottles continues as more product users decide that a 20L drum is too heavy to lift. This is despite the 5L bottle being at least 7% dearer per litre supplied.

A few years ago, we explored the idea of offering a 15L pack size, but the cost per litre was substantially higher than the 20L. This was overwhelmingly rejected by customers surveyed at the time.

Since then, new OHS Acts have come into force, with greater focus on manual handling. This combined with the move to 5L bottles suggests we should re-visit the drum size issue.

Can you tell us if you would pay a small premium per litre over the 20L drum rate to be able to purchase our products in a 15L drum? Please let us know; Fax 03 9480 5100 or [sales@agar.com.au](mailto:sales@agar.com.au)

Non-reply will be taken as implying you are happy with 20L drums.

## CLEANING WORKSHOP No.1

### How To Wash A Room

Whether you are cleaning down a room in a hospital ward, cleaning up after smoke damage, or simply cleaning a new room once the builders have finished, there is a process to follow to clean the room effectively and efficiently.

The correct method for cleaning the interior surfaces of a room from top to bottom:

1. Start with the ceiling. Lay a drip cloth over the floor and any furniture. Obtain a step ladder that is tall enough for you to reach the ceiling safely. If the ladder has a shelf, it can be used to hold 2 buckets – one containing the detergent solution (we recommend Agar HF Detergent at 1 in 50) and one containing the hot rinse water. (Nb. Ensure that the use of a ladder conforms to relevant OHS guidelines. It may be necessary to have someone present to hold the ladder, or if the ceiling is too high, scaffolding or a scissor lift may be required.)
2. To begin, dip one sponge in detergent solution then wring it out till it stops dripping. Use it to scrub the ceiling gently in a circular motion. Clean as wide an area as you can reach safely. Put the detergent sponge back into it's bucket and pick up the rinsing sponge, and wring it out as before. Wipe down the cleaned area with clean water.
3. Move the ladder next to the next, adjacent area and keep cleaning and rinsing until the whole ceiling has been cleaned. The cleaning solution and rinse water should be replaced with fresh solutions when dirty, usually after about 10 square metres.
4. Commence cleaning the walls by tacking the dirtiest areas first, such as around light switches, power points and picture frames. (Do not permit water or solution to run into electrical fittings!)
5. Next, clean the walls. To do this, begin in a corner of the room just above the skirting board. Clean a strip of wall 1 metre wide working up the wall in strokes that overlap and move both across and up the wall. When you reach the top, change to the rinse sponge and immediately rinse the 1 metre strip, now working down the wall to remove streaks and dirt marks before they dry.
6. Clean the next adjoining 1 metre strip in the same way and continue around the room until all four walls have been cleaned.
7. Lastly, sponge clean the skirting boards around the floor and the architraves and frames around the windows.

Of course, if the room has a hard floor, it will also need cleaning either by wet mopping or auto-scrubbing. Carpets are most thoroughly cleaned by hot water extraction. In all cases, good rinsing will produce the best result.

Please contact your Agar Representative or call us for more information.....