

June/July 2003

CLEANING – PROCESS or OUTCOME?

Cleaning is all about the use of processes to remove dirt from surfaces, fixtures and so on, thereby leaving them in a clean state.

Intense competition in the cleaning industry, or at the very least the drive to minimise expenditure on cleaning in any organisation, requires that these processes be performed as efficiently and inexpensively as possible.

Whilst the chemical action and mechanical agitation are key factors in a cleaning process, it is of course the human labour that is by far the most necessary and costly, and absorbs most management attention.

Cleaners are under pressure to get through their work as quickly as possible, so that more work is done in the allotted time, or the allotted work is done in less time.

The danger is that the cleaners will be just 'going through the motions', and this is exacerbated by the repetitive nature of the job. By rushing through the process, the outcome is compromised. But it's the outcome that the client is interested in.

The cleaner needs to look at the work through the client's eyes. This means being mindful of the results of the process, not just getting through the process.

Has the surface dried streak-free and clean? The tiles may be clean, but what about the grout? Can dirt be seen in the grille of the floor waste?

Perhaps it's a case of doing some tasks less frequently, but very thoroughly rather than doing them hastily on a daily basis with poor results, that may even create extra work later to rectify.

In any case, the more cleaners are reminded of their real goal, the better.

TIPS

for those applying floor sealer

Save time cleaning up after laying sealer: line the mop bucket or other vessel with a plastic bag.

Always use a clean, washed mop. Wet it with water and wring it out completely – this way it won't absorb too much sealer.

Do not apply any one coat too thick. A series of even, thin coats will produce the most lasting and strongest film.

Make sure that each coat is dry and not at all tacky before applying the next coat. This will require at least 30 minutes, and possibly longer in humid or cool conditions.

FORMULA 21 takes over as preferred 'NO-BUFF' sealer...

Our technical team have conducted exhaustive testing of our FORMULA 21 floor sealer across a broad range of criteria, to fully understand the performance potential of the product.

Amongst many other strong results, FORMULA 21 demonstrated very good 'gloss off the mop' (gloss once dry, after being laid) and an exceptional ability to hold that shine without buffing.

Our SUPER NOVA sealer showed that there is definitely a market for a 'no-buff' sealer – especially in schools and non-critical office areas – where it is not convenient or viable to buff daily.

FORMULA 21 is better! Mainly for all kinds of vinyl, as well as a top coat for timber FORMULA 21 is tough and resistant to scuffing, and keeps its shine.

Simply sweep daily and mop or autoscrub regularly.

Please note that SUPER NOVA is no longer available, now that it has been clearly superseded by FORMULA 21's new technology.

MOPS 'N' BUCKETS

Hardware & Consumables Catalogue

You may or may not be aware, but we sell mops, buckets, pads, brooms, trolleys, bin liners and paper products.

So you can consolidate ordering these items with your chemicals.

We have now released a colour catalogue with a good representation of our range.

Give us a ring, fax or email, and we'll happily send you a catalogue and current price list.



What does this mean?

A couple of buzzwords doing the rounds:

Nano-technology: Nano denotes a factor of one thousand millionth (10^{-9}), or divided by 10, nine times over. It refers to the size of colloidal particles.

Colloidal: is another term for detergency, which is the normal cleaning effect. A colloid is a dispersion of tiny particles in a liquid, somewhere between a solution and a suspension.

It's all about the detergent solution carrying away the dirt!

Odour Traps in WASHROOMS

Here's a thought – walk into a washroom blindfolded (not during or immediately after use), and if you can smell where you are, it's dirty!

The grout adjacent to toilets and urinals in washrooms with ceramic tiles is commonly a source of odour. Grout is porous and readily absorbs spillage of urine and other matter. This becomes a haven for bacteria growth, which emit problematic odours.

Quickly running a damp mop over the floor will not rectify this problem. Soaking the floor with **Bleach**, a chlorinated detergent like **Chloradet** or strong anti-bacterial detergent or disinfectant like **Orchids** will allow time for the solution to seep into the pores of the grout and attack and dissolve the odour-causing soilage.

Mild agitation with a soft nylon brush will help. The solution should be collected, and then the floor rinsed with water.

Another source of odour may be the drain pipes from the urinals, basins or floor waste. Again **Chloradet** can be used as a soaking agent by squirting undiluted into the pipe and leaving overnight.

If crystallization has occurred in the urinal drain pipe, a caustic solution will be needed to clear this. Agar **Grill Clean** is a useful substitute for this purpose.

By fully cleaning washrooms, there is less need to spend money on air fresheners to mask odours.



Survey Raffle...

✦ WINNERS! ✦

Thank you for those of you who returned our recent Customer Survey. Your feedback was most valuable and in some cases quite revealing!

We have drawn the raffle, and the winners are...

TEMPO - Jason Hall

APEC CLEANING - Joanne Janeway

WESTSIDE LODGE

They each receive a SONY AM/FM mini radio.

Thanks again to all those who responded.

Psssst... Stay tuned for the opportunity to win a valuable mystery prize, by providing us with your email address.

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