

February/March 2004

## How's Your Reaction Time?

Well actually, by reaction we mean chemical reaction, the thing that happens when a detergent solution comes into contact with the soil it is intended to remove.

In theory, the cleaning process can be divided into four key elements:

- ◆ Chemicals
- ◆ Agitation
- ◆ Temperature
- ◆ Time

*(Water is very often a part of the process, but this can be considered within the chemical element, as can the dilution rate of the chemical. Sometimes, the chemical may not be water-based at all.*

*Water can also be part of the agitation element when used at high pressure through a pressure washer, or even as steam.)*

The combination of these four factors will determine the effectiveness of the cleaning process. Each element is complimentary to the other. By boosting any one, you can boost the performance of, or make up for a shortfall in another.

For example, if you want to reduce the time taken, the reactivity of the chemical or the level of physical agitation could be increased. Increasing both should provide an even more rapid result.

An increase in temperature can also accelerate the chemical reaction. A more aggressive brush or pad will dislodge soil more effectively exposing further soil to the chemical reaction.

However, there are limits to how high the temperature or how aggressive the chemical action and agitation can be. They can't be allowed to reach a level at which they could damage the surface being cleaned or the immediate surroundings (eg. carpet adjacent to ceramic tiled floor) or at which they are unsafe to use with normal precautions.

If the practical limits are reached in terms of Temperature, Agitation and Chemical, then the only other option is more time.

Now, when we say time, we're not talking about how long the cleaner stays on the job. We mean the time allowed for the detergent solution to do it's job.

And this is where the chemical or detergent becomes such an important part of the cleaning process. The chemical is doing the work, not the cleaner. By working smart, something else can be done while the chemical is working away on it's own.

You apply the recommended detergent solution to a floor with ingrained soil, scrub quickly and remove, and the soil largely remains. Apply the detergent solution prepared as before, but this time, allow ten minutes for it to react. This time the floor comes clean! Why? Because the detergent has now had sufficient time to attack and dissolve all of the soil particles in the pores of the floor.

So, give the detergent time to work, and it may just perform a minor miracle.



## GOLD COAST UP AND RUNNING!

**It's not everyday that Agar Cleaning Systems opens a new direct outlet, so we are very pleased to announce that our products are now available on the Gold Coast.**

**If you need to obtain our products on the Gold Coast, we are centrally located at Unit 1, 15 Taree Street, West Burleigh.**

**Our man Les Lester can be contacted on 07 5593 4214.**

## FINDING A CERAMIC TILED FLOOR HARD TO CLEAN?

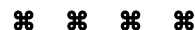
A property manager has complained about a ceramic tiled floor in a washroom that always looks dirty (because it is) and they want it fixed. The floor has been mopped daily, but if anything it just seems to get dirtier.

*(This floor could just as easily be in a commercial kitchen or workshop. This will need to be considered in the choice of detergent.)*

### What could be the cause?

- ▶ The cleaner could be using a detergent or disinfectant solution that is under-diluted (too strong), which is leaving a sticky residue that attracts dirt. **TO AVOID:** Ensure that mopping detergent is diluted correctly.
- ▶ Not enough solution is being applied to the floor when it's mopped. Smearing a damp mop across a very dirty floor will not be able to collect the soil. It will most likely displace the soil into the grout. **TO AVOID:** Plenty of solution should be laid to flush the soil out of the surface and suspend the dislodged soil.
- ▶ The grout has become saturated with soil, so when the floor is mopped, dirt is carried out of the grout and onto the surface of the tiles. **TO AVOID:** Again, laying a generous amount of solution and allowing some time to soak will keep the grout clean. Occasionally run a soft scrubbing brush along the grout lines.
- ▶ The mopping solution has not been replaced regularly, so it has become saturated with soil. Not only does the mopping solution have no more power to dissolve any more soil, it is carrying soil from previous floors onto the next. **TO AVOID:** Replace the mopping solution regularly.
- ▶ The tiles may be excessively porous and tend to absorb anything that falls on them. Daily mopping may not be sufficient to maintain these tiles in clean condition over the longer term. **TO AVOID:** Periodically machine scrub the tiles, fully wetting the floor with detergent solution and allow time for it to react while scrubbing.

The final answer may be to seal the tiles which would make daily cleaning much easier. However, the floor would then require occasional re-coating and eventually stripping and re-sealing, so there is little or no saving in the periodic maintenance.



## New G-SOLVE: Glowing Customer Feedback re Chewing Gum Removal.

A customer has recently let us know how impressed he was with our new G-Solve. He had the task of spending a few hours removing a substantial amount of chewing gum from the carpets in a well-known variety store. His email said he experienced "no side effects from it. The smell is actually pleasant and not at all overpowering."

Of course G-solve can also be used to remove oil, grease, paint and ink from carpets, and is a versatile solution to all sorts of cleaning problems.

Importantly unlike our competitor's products, new G-Solve is non-flammable. Therefore it's not classified as dangerous goods, which means there are no storage hassles. Also G-Solve is non-hazardous according to Worksafe criteria, which means it is absolutely safe to use when used in accordance with the directions.

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