

The cleaning solution should be applied to the floor in sufficient quantity so that it will not begin to dry for at least 15-20 minutes. It is left on the floor for about 10 minutes to enable the cleaner to chemically react with the old wax film.

A too liberal application or a too long soaking period is not desired, as the excess of water may result in loosening or warping of the tiles.

The soaked area should be scrubbed with an electric machine equipped with a suitable scrubbing brush or a No. 2 or No. 3 steel wool pad. The steel wool pad should be slightly smaller than the brush to prevent splashing. Immediately after scrubbing and while the floor is still wet, the mixture of cleaner, dissolved wax, and dirt should be picked up with a vacuum pickup or a wrung-out mop.

It is extremely important that the cleaning solution be completely removed from the floor. Rinse water is applied to the floor before it begins to dry and again picked up with a mop or vacuum. It may be necessary to repeat the rinsing operation several times to insure complete removal of the cleaning solution.

When there has been an excessive amount of wax and dirt on the floor, it may be necessary to repeat the cleaning application, scrubbing, and mopping in order that all wax and dirt be removed from the floor. A clean floor should have a dull appearance, but retain the natural depth of color and general appearance of the original floor. It should show no sign of whitening or haze as this indicates the presence of reemulsified wax, incomplete removal, or insufficient rinsing.

Application

The number of coats of wax applied will vary with the type and condition of flooring, amount of traffic, and the appearance desired. Normally, two or more thin coats are better than one heavy coat. The first coat acts as a seal, and the subsequent coat or coats bring out the highly desirable wax finish. Buffing after each application is recommended.

The best method for applying water emulsion floor wax on large areas is with a clean 16 to 20 ounce cotton strand mop. The mop is saturated with wax and then wrung out, not thoroughly dry but only to the point where the bottom strands no longer drip. The mop should not be agitated in the wax, as this causes foaming which in turn causes bubble marks and streaking. The use of a mechanical wringer is not recommended for the same reason.

A thin coat of wax is applied as evenly as possible by mopping with straight side to side strokes, leaving no visible dry or excessively wet areas. The floor will appear milky or bluish where too much wax has been applied. Bubbles and drips should be wiped away. Bubbles will eventually dry and form craters, and drips will form bumps.

If more wax is needed, the whole mop should not be placed in the bucket but at the side, leaving the lower part of the strands outside and only the head of the mop in the wax. When the mop is removed, the wax will run evenly down the strands without dripping if the proper quantity has been applied to the head. After a few trials, an operator will become skillful in getting just the right amount of wax onto the mop head and should have no difficulty with this part of the job.

On smaller areas, or where there are obstacles such as office furniture, a lambswool block-type applicator may be used. The wax is placed in a shallow pan wider than the length of the applicator. The applicator should be dipped into the wax and the surplus removed by sliding the lambswool over the edge of the pan on each side. The wax is then applied with long, even, back and forth strokes of the applicator.

If a lambswool applicator is not available or is not preferred for the smaller floors, a short strand dry mop can be used. A shallow pan is used, the same as for the lambswool applicator, and care should be taken to insure that the mop is clean and water dampened prior to waxing. The short strand mop is used in the same manner as the lambswool applicator except that the mop has an advantage in that it can be stroked from side to side in addition to being pushed and pulled.

After the first coat has completely dried, it should be mechanically buffed with a brush. The surface is then ready for the next coat which * * * clear, and changed as frequently as necessary. Black heel marks that are not taken out by damp mopping may be removed by lightly "kicking-out" with a pad of steel wool under the shoe. If any areas show traffic wear after damp mopping, a coat of wax may be applied to those places.

The third step in maintenance is buffing by machine after the floor is dry. The entire area should be buffed to bring out the original gloss and luster.