

# Spray Buffing Procedures

## SPRAY BUFF:

Spray buffing relies on the chemical cleaning and polishing action of the liquid spray buff, along with the mechanical action of the pad, to repair scuffs in the floor finish and to achieve high gloss levels. This technique is useful up to 1500 RPM or so, depending on the machine weight and pad choice.

## Equipment / Chemicals:

Wet Floor Signs ( one for each point of entry to the work area)  
Floor Machine 175 - 400 RPM  
Red or White Floor Pads  
Clean Spray Bottle with Spray Buff  
Mop Bucket with Wringer  
Neutral Floor Cleaner  
Dust Mop c/w frame & handle

## Preparation:

1. Dust mop floor (corners and edges by hand) thoroughly.
2. Wet mop. Make sure to do corners and edges thoroughly. Use an automatic floor scrubber if available.

## Spray Buff Procedure:

1. In preparation, remove any scuff marks - some may have to be done by hand with small piece of red or white pad (center from the floor pad works great!).
2. Mist the spray buff solution in a fine mist over a small section of the floor. Do not spray directly on the surface. Use as little buffing solution as possible.
3. Always spray buff from right to left / left to right (in a pendulum or swinging motion).
4. If you see a build up of buffing material on the pads, too much spray buff is being used.
5. Dust mop behind spray buffing being sure to hit edges and corners (very important).

## Notes:

- Mopping procedure must be perfect to remove dirt particles and marks.
- Mist only enough spray buff to cover a small area.
- Be sure to not let material build up on pad.
- Pad must be clean and free from debris.
- Do not move machine too fast.
- Allow adequate time for pad to clean floor

## Clean Up:

After procedure is complete, all equipment including machine, mops, pads, buck

## Cleaning:

Your cleaning procedure is a critical part in a spray buff maintenance program. Soil must be picked up and removed from the floor finish surface prior to buffing. Any soil left on the floor will be ground into the finish. In a short period of time, the floor will develop a grayish-yellow appearance, which is difficult to correct without stripping.

## Safety:

Make sure that the floor signs are in place before starting. Check to see that adequate finish is present in all areas. Maintaining a sufficient number of coats of finish is a critical element of any successful floor maintenance program. Remember that with all Swish floor finishes, you get the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) certification of their anti-slip properties.

## Pads:

Consider the aggressiveness, fiber type and structure when determining the pad to use. The wrong pad can result in excessive finish removal (powdering), productivity loss due to clogging and glazing of the pad plus increased costs due to premature pad wear-out. More important is the cost of unsatisfactory appearance if the procedures or pads do not produce the "positive impression" desired.

## Frequency:

As with all floor maintenance procedures, spray buffing must be done on a timely basis. If not done at the right time, the buildup of marks or the damage to the floor may be too great for spray buffing to achieve the desired results. The frequency of spray buffing depends on many factors: volume and type of traffic, weather, location, etc.

### EPOXY ESTER FLOOR SEALER:

The term "Sealer" is used loosely here. Epoxy esters are usually one part epoxy mixes (or little more than an epoxy paint). These sealers do have better wear ability than the above products. They are usually applied at about 2 or 3 mils thickness. In addition, they do provide some chemical resistance to some chemicals. To keep this type looking good, it should be re-coated approximately ever year or two with moderate to heavy traffic. One hazard to this type of sealer is that it is almost always extremely flammable when wet.

### URETHANE FLOOR SEALER (Solvent Based):

Urethane floor sealers come in all shapes and forms, so it's buyer beware. You will find urethane floor sealers from about 12% solids up to about 40% solids. Of course, the higher the solid content, the better the wear ability and chemical resistance. The 40% solids is usually applied at a 2 mil thickness. The finish is usually a semi-gloss or high gloss. They look great and usually will last 2 to 3 years between coating when you use the 40% solid type. Again, this product is almost extremely flammable when wet.

### URETHANE FLOOR SEALER (Water Based):

Looks great, but the wear ability and chemical resistance is not as good as the solvent -based sealer. The same holds true with the solid content. Usually will need recoating in about one year with moderate traffic to maintain finish.

### EPOXY FLOOR SEALER:

Epoxy floor sealer is a true two-part epoxy, usually cut back with various forms of solvent. Solid content may vary by manufacturer. This type of sealer has better chemical resistance than the urethane sealer. Wear ability is about the same as the solvent based urethane.

### URETHANE FLOOR COATINGS (Solvent Based):

This type of coating will vary in solid content from about 65% to 100% solids. Of course the higher the solid content, the better the wear ability. In addition to better wear ability and chemical resistance, they usually have very little odor and are low in VOC's, and considered flammable. The 100% solid content coating is usually applied at a rate of about 5 or 6 mils. Life expectancy on a moderate traffic area could be around 4 or 5 years.

### URETHANE FLOOR COATINGS (Water Based):

Again these are low in VOC's and odor. Wear ability is about half of that of the solvent based. Low chemical resistance. Flammable while wet.

### EPOXY FLOOR COATINGS (Solvent Based):

These coatings usually vary in content from about 65% to 100% solid content. The 100% solid content is usually applied at approximately 8 mil. thickness. This type coating is highly resistant to abrasion, heavy traffic and most chemicals. In most cases this is the product you should use for a long lasting, good looking durable floor. This type of coating is usually non flammable and has very low VOC's and odor.

### EPOXY FLOOR COATINGS (Water Based):

Content range the same as solvent based. Has good wear ability, but lower in chemical resistance than the solvent based. Flammable while wet.