

# HOW TO STRIP FLOORS

## Purpose

To remove a floor finish when any of the following occurs:

- The floor finish has discolored / yellowed.
- There is excessive finish / soil buildup.
- Cleaning, spray buffing, burnishing, or refinishing does not give the results desired.

## Supplies and Equipment

### EQUIPMENT

- Treated dust mop
- Brush and dust pan
- Putty knife
- Wet / dry vacuum
- 2 buckets
- 2 downward pressure wringers
- Squeegee
- Floor machine
- Wet mop
- "Wet Floor Hazard" signs

### CHEMICALS/WATER

- Stripping solution
- Neutral Cleaner (not maintainer)
- Fresh water (use cool water)

### FLOOR PADS

- AMERICO Stripping Pads:**
  - Dominator** Extra Aggressive Stripping
  - HP500** Heavy Duty Stripper
  - Black** Stripping
  - Brown** Stripping

## Procedure

1. Prepare the area:

- Place "Floor Hazard" signs in easy-to-see locations at entrances to area being stripped.
- Move furniture. Work around heavy furniture or equipment that cannot be moved. Tilt file cabinets and mount on blocks.
- Sweep the floor with a treated dust mop or vacuum the floor.
- Remove gum and other foreign material with a putty knife.
- Place stripping pad (either **AMERICO** Dominator Extra Aggressive Stripping Pad, HP 500 Black Stripping Pad, Black Strip, or Brown Strip) on the machine.
- Set equipment in area where work will begin. In a room start in the farthest corner from the entrance.

2. Follow instructions for using the stripping solution and pour into the bucket. Use cool tap water.

**Note:** Hot water can loosen tile adhesive and cause solution to dry too fast.

3. Dip mophead into stripping solution. Wet mop to saturate the floor. Fan out the mophead on the floor and start applying solution at the edges.

**Note:** Most build-up is at the edges.

4. Apply the solution in a 6' to 7' arc or side to side movement to cover the area between the edges. Cover only a 100 to 125 square foot area at a time. Be sure not to allow stripping solution to dry on the floor

- Where splashing on the walls and baseboards occurs, wipe off immediately with a damp cloth.
- Let the solution soak on the floor 10 minutes. Keep floor wet during soak time.
- Using the floor machine with either the **AMERICO** Dominator Extra Aggressive Stripping Pad, HP500 Black Stripping Pad, Black Strip, or Brown Strip, strip the area that is covered with solution. Overlap the strokes made by the machine.
- Use the mop and empty bucket or wet / dry vacuum to pick up dirty solution. Do not allow solution to dry on the floor.
- Rinse area using damp mop with neutral cleaner / water solution, per instructions on cleaner bottle, until all stripper is gone.
- Rinse with water after the first rinsing with neutral cleaner.
- A neutralized floor gives a much better bond of the finish to the tile.
- Allow floor to dry. Restrip any high gloss spots.
- Allow floor to dry at least one hour after final rinse. Check floor to be sure it is ready for finish by wiping the hand across a section of the floor. If a white powder comes up, the floor has not been rinsed properly and must be rinsed until no white powder comes up after the floor is dry. When the white powder no longer comes up on the hand, the floor is ready to be finished.

## Accomplishment

After following this procedure the floor will be free of all sealers, finishes, dirt, grime, gum, other foreign matter and have no powdery residue. The floor is then ready for finish to bond to the floor tile properly.