How to: Burnishing

What is Burnishing?
Burnishing is a process of dry buffing with ultra high speed equipment to remove scuff marks and increase the gloss of floor finish. Burnishing should never be performed without first dry cleaning and wet cleaning the floor, preferably with an automatic scrubber. Failure to clean first will result in discolored floors and increased stripping cycles.

Why Burnish?
To get a high gloss or “Wet” look to extend life of the finish.

Tip:
- Use more coats of finish (four plus).
- Floor must be clean or you will rub the dirt into the floor.
- When damp mopping use a detergent that leaves no residue.
- High speed floor machines should not be used for wet scrubbing.
- Walk in a straight line while using a high speed machine.

Procedure: Spray Buffing
1. Dust mop area.
2. Position wet floor signs.
3. Always wear protective goggles and gloves.
4. Damp mop or auto scrub, if necessary, to remove heavy soil.
5. Center burnishing pad on the pad holder attached to high speed burnisher. (Pad selection is determined by type of finish).
6. Make a continuous pass over the floor with the burnisher. Do not let the machine stand in one place while burnishing. Overlap the next pass by 2 inches.
7. The pad will accumulate some dirt and floor finish. When pad is filled, turn it over and then replace as necessary with a clean pad.
8. Dust mop the floor to remove any loose debris.

Identification of Non Resilient Tile.

Slate Floors
Slate is a fine grained metamorphic rock derived from clays and more often, shales. It has a cleavage that allows it to be easily split into thin sheets. Slate floors can be ground smooth, like a chalk board or rough surfaced when left unground. Slate is porous and must be sealed to keep from staining. No more than two coats of seal should ever be applied to rough slate floors to keep from building up excess amounts in the lower valleys or depressions. Ongoing protection should be with buffable polymers and buffed with a polishing brush.

Stone Floors
Although Marble, Travertine and Slate are technically stone, we generally categorize them separately and lump all the others, such as Granite, Limestone (Bedford stone), etc. under one category. These stone floors have varying composition and degrees of hardness. Nevertheless all of these stone floors are cut or quarried from the ground as such are porous to varying degrees. Therefore they will stain and must be sealed. Some of the stone floors may be rough surfaced and should be sealed and maintained like rough slate.

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