

## PROCEDURE FOR FLOOR STRIPPING

### Tools & Materials Needed:

- Mop buckets and wet mops
- Wringers
- Dust mops
- Lobby broom and dust pan
- Floor machine and wet/dry vacuum
- Wax and finish stripper
- Clean water for rinse
- Putty knife or long handled scraper
- Floor squeegee
- Stripping pads
- Wet floor signs
- Gloves and goggles for mixing stripper

### Procedures:

Floor should be stripped when discoloration is present along baseboards, or there is unrepairable damage to the floor finish itself, such as heavy scratches, worn areas that can no longer be brought back by spray buffing, rejuvenating or recoating.

Remove as much furniture as possible from the area to be stripped. Dust mop entire area to be stripped. Remove tar or gum from the floor with a long handled scraper or putty knife.

Place Wet Floor signs in easy to see places and at every entrance. Follow the directions on the container. Always pour the stripper into hot water and wear gloves and goggles. Dip the mop in the stripping solution, and apply stripper liberally to the baseboard areas. Let the stripping solution set for 3 - 5 minutes. Physically scrub baseboards with a tool designed for that purpose. Apply stripping solution liberally to a 10' x 10' section of the floor, or roughly 100 - 125 square feet. Move the floor machine into place, place the stripping pad on the pad holder and scrub the stripper, working from the dry floor into the stripping solution. When picking up the stripping solution, it is easier to squeegee the stripping solution to a central location and then pick up with a wet/dry vac. Neutralization of the floor can be achieved by three methods.

- By using a rinse free stripper which should be followed by a clear water rinse to pick up any debris caused by the agitation of the pad to the floor.
- By using a floor neutralizer in your first rinse followed by one clear water rinse.
- Or by using 3 or 4 clear water rinses.

This will depend on the stripping solution you have chosen. The floor should be as neutral as possible prior to applying seal. The way to check this is to allow the floor to dry, dip pH paper in clean water, lay the pH paper on the floor for 10 seconds, pick up the pH paper and compare it to the color scheme on the pH paper package. If the pH paper indicates alkaline residual, rinse the floor again with clear water. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly prior to your first coat of seal.

### Conclusion:

The above procedure will remove old sealer and finishes, gum, tar and black marks leaving the floor ready for the first coat of seal.