



Give winter floors a break

Winter can be tough on floors. Weather conditions amplify floor care problems and make the need for a floor care maintenance program even more important. Here are some industry tips for taking care of your floors in the colder months.

Control grit. Effectively controlling grit on your floors reduces labor time and helps prevent slips and falls. Use outside mats to trap particulate soil on shoes and a more absorbent interior matting inside to remove moisture and additional soils.

Increase cleaning frequencies. Snow and rain in winter months often mean more moisture tracked into a facility. Increase mopping, vacuuming or autoscrubbing frequency to remove soil and prevent accidents. Make sure floors are adequately cleaned before burnishing, or grit and dirt will be ground into the finish and cause yellowing.

Understand ice melters. Cleaning professionals need to be aware of the impact ice melters have on floors and safety. Sodium chloride, a very common ice melter, is abrasive by nature and can harm interior floors if it is not trapped on mats or removed by cleaning. Calcium chloride absorbs moisture but turns it into a greasy film in warm buildings. Autoscrubbing can be very effective in both situations, removing grit and greasy residue and preventing slips, falls, or damaged floors.

Prevent finish-adhesion loss. A common winter floor care problem is finish adhesion. A floor finish on marginally porous floors, such as quarry tile, may produce a tough, high-gloss finish in warm months but suffer finish-adhesion loss in the cold and gritty conditions of winter. Prevent this with mats that stop grit before it enters the facility.

Recoat floors in winter. With more frequent cleaning, and with autoscrubbing, it may be necessary to recoat in the winter when the floor temperature is 50°F (10°C) or warmer. If it is colder, cracks may develop in the finish, and more adhesion problems will result.

Winter floor care does take more time and attention. Increasing floor maintenance programs and mechanizing floor work will help to reduce the time needed to maintain floors, decrease labor costs, and keep floors looking their very best.

Before selecting the products and equipment you need to keep your floors looking good, contact us at 901-521-1612 or toll-free at 800-561-1612. To receive cleaning tips and other useful information, sign up at www.memphchemical.com.