



Cylindrical vs. rotary floor cleaners

Cylindrical brush technology has burst on the U.S. scene after 20 years of popularity in Europe. Many of our customers are asking about the differences between cylindrical and rotary floor cleaners, so here is a quick overview:

How they are different

Traditional rotary buffers have a single rotary disk and pads that rotate horizontally, from side to side, at approximately 175 to 300 revolutions per minute (rpm). Cylindrical floor machines — which have roller brushes on each end — were developed to tackle the uneven and sloped floors common to many European buildings. The brushes are multidirectional — can move side to side; forward and backward — at 1,000 - 1,400 rpm.

Cleaning the edges

The pads on rotary machines have a tendency to “throw” cleaning solution on baseboards and are hard to line up against the wall for edge cleaning. Consequently, some floor care technicians do “edge work” by hand. A cylindrical machine’s rollers rotate inward, so there is no solution splashed against baseboards, and the square base can line up directly against baseboards for cleaning edges and corners.

More frugal with solution

A rotary machine can distribute cleaning solution unevenly because of the brushes’ horizontal rotation. Floor care technicians may have to make several passes to evenly apply the solution. With a cylindrical machine, a film of cleaning solution forms between the two parallel rollers, applying cleaner more evenly and improving productivity.

What works best?

- For the most part, both types of machines can produce excellent results on linoleum and most tiles.
- With structured floors, such as rubber-studded floors and uneven or stone floors, cylindrical brushing technology has superior penetrating capabilities.
- For polishing a finished floor, the rotary disk machines tend to be a deeper shine.
- Overall, cylindrical machines are more versatile than traditional rotary machines and use cleaning solution more economically.

However, the best evaluation comes from testing these machines yourself. If you would like a demo of either of these types of machines, or both, let us know.