

Spec

and span
Cleaning and
maintenance are
vital for the longevity
of floorcoverings:

Beck Acroma has re-launched its Parquet Pro range including a polish, described as environmentally-compliant, waterproof and self-polishing to revive and protect against mechanical wear; a cleaner, said to contain no organic solvents or pigments; a refresher, designed to revive scratched and dull surfaces and protect against wear; and a remover to dissolve water, oil, ethanol and alkaline soluble polishes and remove rubber heel marks.

The products are suitable for use over Becker Acroma's lacquer range Parquet One, Parquet Pro and Parquet Performance, and also floors coated in other lacquers.

www.becker-acroma.co.uk

Bissell has introduced ReadyDry, described as a fast drying carpet cleaner, featuring PowerRoller technology reportedly widely used in schools, hospitals and airports. The appliance is designed to speed up the cleaning process, washing, then drying in the same time it normally takes to vacuum, quick drying in under 30 minutes.

By using minimum moisture to trap, lift and gently remove dirt, ReadyDry washes and refreshes



Parquet Pro Refresher from Becker Acroma

carpets and rugs without the usual disruption associated with cleaning, says Charles Gordon, Bissell's international markets director.

The appliance comes with the advanced stain-fighting Oxy Gen2 Power Tool, said to offer superior spot cleaning too.

Bissell is currently supporting retailers with a major campaign for ReadyDry, including TV, retail and consumer advertising, PR, PoS, merchandising and promotional activity. www.bissell.com

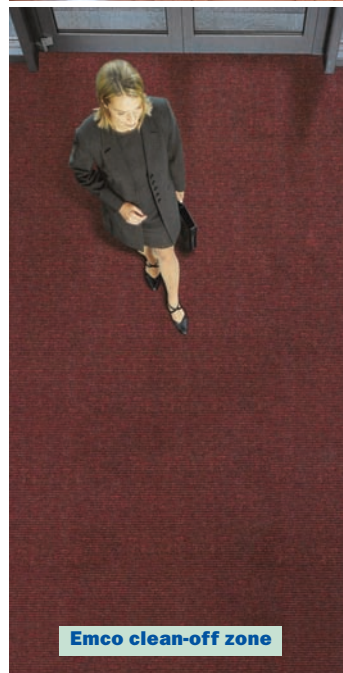
Bona supplied Traffic to recoat wood floors in the Royal Horticultural Hall. The floors are maintained by the hall's in-house team with Bona products. There is daily dry cleaning to remove abrasive particles, and damp cleaning as required using diluted Bona cleaner.

Additional cleaning is undertaken using Bona Remover to remove any non-soluble materials, and further protection provided by new formula Bona Polish. However once a floor has been treated with wax or polish,



Cleaning & maintenance

The floor in the Royal Horticultural Hall recently coated with Bona Traffic



Emco clean-off zone



The ReadyDry carpet cleaner from Bissell

it will have to be sanded back to bare wood before recoating with lacquer.

An alternative is to use Bona Freshen up to occasionally revive the surface of a scratched or dull floor to extend the time between sanding back and resealing. www.bona.com

DK Holdings manufactures grinding, polishing and maintenance systems for marble, terrazzo, granite and concrete floors. Tornado heavy duty planetary head machines, Numatic and Premiere single head machines are available for sale or hire.

A range of diamond tools is made in the Staplehurst factory. New products for wet or dry use include Frankfurt and München Segments, for use wet with universal scrubber drier systems to restore marble and terrazzo floors to a high gloss finish. Scorpion Flex Discs designed for single head machines to wet polish marble and terrazzo are also supplied. The company also offers a range of stone care products.

Emco clean-off zone is claimed to deal with even the finest particles, to guarantee a clean, hygienic entrance area, whilst effectively combining functionality, shape, colour and style to complement the ambience within any building. The range features six matting models each with distinctive characteristics and functions: Maximus; Maximus Image; Premium; Scratch; Modus and Favorit.

Used as part of Emco's 3-zone cleaning system, the clean-off zones are said to absorb up to 90% of



Power Clean from Genesis

remaining dirt, grit and moisture within the entrance area.

The clean-off zone is reportedly characterised by colourfastness and – depending on product model – excellent fire resistance. Certain models are available as mats or off the roll, with fixed or loose laying.

Genesis introduced its Floorcare cleaning and protection product range for the commercial and domestic markets. Power Clean is a heavy duty industrial cleaner designed for factories, workshops, garages and kitchens or areas of high foot fall. When diluted, the product can be used on all types of hard surfaces and even soft flooring, such as vinyl, according to the company.

It can reportedly be used on glazed ceramics, terracotta, natural stone, concrete, counter tops, marble, granite, porcelain, slate, plastics, corrugated iron, galvanised metals, painted surfaces and colour-fast materials. www.genesis-aps.com

POLISHES MARBLE & TERRAZZO TO HIGH GLOSS FINISH

USED FOR RAPID GRINDING IN PREPARATION FOR POLISHING

POLISHING SYSTEM FOR RESTORING OLD OR NEWLY LAID FLOORS

QUICKLY RESTORES MARBLE, TERRAZZO AND CONCRETE TO A HIGH GLOSS FINISH

THE TORNADO 2 HAS BUILT A REPUTATION FOR BEING STRONG, RELIABLE WITH SIMPLICITY OF OPERATION.

A selection of products from DK Holdings



Cleaning & maintenance



The Sebo Dart UHS polisher

Kährs has added a UV/Nature Oil wood floor refresher and spray cleaner to its range of domestic maintenance and care products. Developed to replace Kährs maintenance wax and nature oil refresher, the new refresher is said to be easy to apply, giving additional protection to floor surfaces, enhancing dirt resistance.



RIGHT: Kährs' UV/Nature Oil wood floor refresher and spray

The Prochem Natural range of cleaning products

Available in packs of six one-litre bottles, it can be applied straight from the bottle, then worked along the length of the boards using a damp mop. The spray cleaner comes in 0.75l bottles as a ready diluted alternative to Kährs cleaner. It can be applied directly to the floor with the company's mop set. Other products in its maintenance range include lacquer and lacquer refresher, touch-up and wood filler, and floor protectors. www.kahrs.co.uk **Prochem** has added Powerplus 500 to its Steempro portable carpet soil extractor line. The single operator machine has a heavy-duty fully adjustable 500psi high pressure pump with gauge and heavy duty high pressure solution hose, plus clip-on in-line 2.8kw heat exchanger. It comes with hoses and a Glidemaster stainless steel wand. The vacuum and pump system incorporates an internal 'whisper quiet' silencer. Options include single and dual 3-stage motors, 70psi, 100psi and 500psi pumps across four models with two tank sizes. Prochem has introduced a Natural



collection of carpet and multi-surface treatments, in phosphate free formulations coupled with all-natural fragrances including lemongrass, eucalyptus and tea tree as well as lavender, orange and peppermint in the Natural Carpet Deodoriser. The cleaning solutions are said to contain only ingredients considered environmentally safe; biodegradable complexing agents and surfactants. The latest addition is a Natural concentrated carpet defoaming agent for use in extraction machine recovery tanks. www.prochem.co.uk **Sebo** Dart UHS polisher is said to substantially reduce the need for wet mopping, combining vacuuming and polishing without having to seal off areas. The product uses HTC twister floor pads, incorporating micro-diamonds. This, in combination with automatic height control is designed to avoid the use of chemicals or liquids and create a super smooth floor surface. The absence of liquids has hygiene benefits as well as complying fully with health and safety issues. The S-Class filtration system of the vacuum unit is designed to

remove even the finest dust, while the three-layer sealable bags ensure safe and hygienic disposal of dust picked up. Sebo says the Dart polisher can be used on virtually any floorcovering, from wood, PVC, stone and varnish-coated. It comes with a green daily cleaning pad. A red pad is available for treating scratches and a yellow pad to restore a high gloss. **CFJ** www.sebo.co.uk

BUYERS' GUIDE	
<i>For further information on any of the products mentioned, contact the suppliers directly. And please remember to tell them that you read about their companies in CFJ:</i>	
Becker Acroma	01440 765400
Bissell	0870 2250109
Bona	01908 399740
DK Holdings	01580 891662
Emco	0870 1611617
Genesis	01642 713000
Kährs	023 9245 3045
Prochem	020 8974 1515
Sebo	01494 465533
Tarkett	01622 854040

Try sustainable cleaning for a healthier environment



Mike Harrison, marketing manager at Tarkett, explains how surface protection can prolong the life of the floor:

WE expect a certain level of sustainability from our flooring, whether it's the recycled content or natural raw materials used to manufacture it or the volume that can be recycled at end of life. But how much attention do we pay to the environmental impact of maintaining the floor once it's installed? A floorcovering's cost represents about a tenth of its total lifecycle cost, 90% covering cleaning and maintenance, which should be a concern when sourcing sustainable products. Raw materials used to make a product affect how it can be reclaimed at the end, as well as resources needed to care for it along the way, including sourcing renewable resources, such as linseed oil, sawdust, wood, cork and jute for linoleum flooring and sustainable forests for wood and laminate products. Many vinyls are now manufactured with greater recycled content and rubber flooring is often made from post-consumer truck tyres and other 'waste' materials. Most manufacturers now offer some form of



surface protection to prolong the life of their flooring. This may be PUR for vinyls and linoleum or lacquer for wood and laminates. PUR treatments work in different ways. Firstly they protect floorcoverings from everyday wear, providing resistance to scratches, indentations, stains and scuffing. Some also offer enhanced antibacterial, hygienic and slip-resistant properties. Importantly, the amount of heavy, wet cleaning required is minimised, lowering maintenance costs. PUR treatments benefit the environment with less consumption of fresh water, energy and detergents. By protecting the surface from

everyday damage, the appearance and function of the flooring are preserved, giving longer service life and reducing the frequency flooring needs to be replaced. The type of flooring installed can also affect indoor air quality. This is significant since people spend around 90% of their time indoors. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) produce potentially harmful emissions and reduce indoor air quality. The level of emissions depends on the permeability of the flooring, VOC emissions from adhesives and also from the backing, such as foam or plasticisers. A PUR surface treatment can help to control VOC emissions by sealing the flooring. It also helps limit emissions from cleaning chemicals since maintenance regimes are reduced and fewer chemicals needed. Within the BRE Global 2009 green guide to specification all homogeneous & heterogeneous vinyl flooring, together with safety flooring, made in accordance with appropriate manufacturing standards, receive generic A+ ratings for healthcare and education use. Manufacturers must work harder to differentiate themselves from the competition, and the environmental impact of cleaning and maintenance could be a factor. **CFJ**

Advice on cleaning and maintaining your resin floors



Helen McGachie, chief executive of the Resin Flooring Association (FeRFA) advises on maintaining resin floors:

RESIN floors are tough resilient systems, but their performance characteristics can only be maintained if an appropriate and regular cleaning regime is implemented. Problems which arise following installation are often related to cleaning, not to the actual resin flooring product.

The cleaning regime is determined by various factors, the type of resin installed, the type and frequency of traffic, the degree and type of soiling and specific hygiene requirements.

Floor cleaning basically has two components, mechanical and chemical. A mechanical floor scrubber is the preferred method for cleaning resin floors.

For controlled application of cleaning agent, there must be an effective scrubbing action, a continuous supply of clean water, the continuous removal of dirty water, and the continuous drying of the floor.

Many cleaning chemicals are available, some targeted against specific contaminants such as fats and oils. Always follow the cleaning chemical manufacturer's advice and instructions, and when applying any new cleaning product, we recommend a small spot test.

Table showing the types of resin floor (BS 8204-6) and the recommended cleaning methods

Type	Name	Description	Duty	Typical thickness	Typical Cleaning
1	Floor seal	Applied in two or more coats. Generally solvent or water borne	LD	Up to 150 µm	Wash and vacuum dry
2	Floor coating	Applied in two or more coats. Generally solvent free.	LD/MD	150 µm to 300 µm	Wash and vacuum dry
3	High build floor coating	Applied in two or more coats. Generally solvent free.	MD	300 µm to 1000 µm	Mechanical scrubber / dryers satisfactory but not with regular use of abrasive pads
4	Multi-layer flooring	Aggregate dressed systems based on multiple layers of floor coatings or flow-applied floorings, often described as 'sandwich' systems.	MD/HD	> 2 mm	Requires rotary brush vacuum machine
5	Flow applied flooring	Often referred to as 'self-smoothing' or 'self-levelling' flooring and having a smooth surface.	MD/HD	2 mm to 3 mm	Gloss – wash & vacuum. Matt – scrubber drier
6	Resin screed flooring	Trowel-finished, heavily filled systems, generally incorporating a surface seal coat to minimize porosity.	MD/HD	> 4 mm	Scrubber drier
7	Heavy duty flowable flooring	Having a smooth surface.	HD/VHD	4 mm to 6 mm	Scrubber drier
8	Heavy duty resin flooring	Trowel-finished, aggregate filled systems effectively impervious throughout their thickness.	VHD	> 6 mm	High pressure washer Cleaner / scrubber

Light duty (LD) light foot traffic, occasional rubber tired vehicles

Medium duty (MD) regular foot traffic, frequent fork lift truck traffic, occasional hard plastic-wheeled trolleys,

Heavy duty (HD) constant fork lift truck traffic, hard plastic wheeled trolleys, some impact

Very heavy duty (VHD) severe

heavily loaded traffic and impact.

Each cleaning regime should be specific for particular conditions, and should specify the type of equipment to be used, the type of cleaning chemicals and the frequency of the cleaning.

For the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food industries, it is important to maintain hygienic

surfaces, and proper and effective cleaning techniques are essential.

Resin floors kept clean will last longer, and maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment. **CFJ**

For more detailed information see FeRFA Guidance Note No 6: Cleaning resin floors available free to download. www.ferfa.org.uk

Ultra high speed polishers offer 'super shiny floors'



For super-shiny floors, it's hard to beat the latest Ultra High Speed polishers using diamond pad technology, but it's important to select the right model for the job. Sebo's commercial sales manager, Derek Smith, offers some advice:

TODAY'S UHS (Ultra High Speed) floor polishers are revolutionising the floorcare industry, cutting labour costs and producing excellent results.

Traditionally hard floors, such as wood, marble, granite or vinyl, could be cleaned either with a simple mop and bucket, which will clean but not shine, or a cumbersome and unwieldy rotary polisher that will shine, but requires the floor cleaned in advance and chemical polish applied.

The latest UHS floor polishers vacuum and polish hard floors in one compact unit that's

easy to manoeuvre and won't break the bank.

As with most things in life, before rushing out to invest in one of these machines, it pays to do a little homework in advance. Firstly, consider the floor area to be polished. In a large shopping mall, a ride-on model with its own power source is best.

High capacity halls, such as sports halls and major auditoriums, also require a substantial walk-behind model with a minimum polishing disk width of 45cm. Other spaces – hotel receptions, shops, offices, nursing homes, schools, hospitals and domestic residences – are suited to a compact UHS polisher, which can cope with awkward spaces and narrow corridors.

The second point is ease of use. It is impossible for a heavy machine to be supported only by the polishing pad.

Many UHS polishers use an adjustable jockey wheel or similar, which takes the weight off the polishing pad, however this often compromises

manoeuvrability.

When using these machines with diamond pads water has to be applied to the floor to reduce friction and control dust which can not only cause a health and safety hazard, but also needs to be removed.

Investing in a model that will vacuum as it goes and does not require water is recommended as it saves on labour costs, halving cleaning time. Two-in-one models which combine a vacuum and polisher in one compact unit, offer the versatility to cater for a small-to-medium floor area that heavy machinery cannot accommodate.

Operating without water eliminates health and safety considerations, so areas to be cleaned do not have to be sealed off for extended periods. As the vacuum is attached to the polisher head via a simple one-button push and slide action, the cleaner can be used independently from the polisher – great for those with both carpet and hard floors. **CFJ**