



CFR Surveys Extractor Users on Water

Dec 22, 2010

CHICAGO -- At the recent ISSA/INTERCLEAN North America tradeshow, several presenters discussed the fact that Green cleaning is evolving into sustainable cleaning. And one area that might be impacted by more sustainable cleaning is the use of water.

With this in mind, CFR, manufacturers of filtering and recycling carpet extractors, contacted nearly 600 carpet cleaning professionals, asking them to answer questions regarding water use and carpet cleaning.

About 10 percent of them responded.

"Our first question asked how much water a conventional portable extractor uses," says Doug Berjer, Product Manager for CFR. "Most respondents answered 'less than a gallon of water per minute'; however, this is not correct."

According to Berjer, most conventional portable extractors use one to two gallons of water per minute.

"Because so many respondents were off the mark with the first answer, most got the second one wrong as well," Berjer says. "We asked them how much water would be necessary to clean 10,000 square feet of carpeting. Eighty percent indicated 250 to 500 gallons. The correct answer is closer to

1,000 gallons."

Some of the other items discussed on the survey included these:

- Asked how much time it takes to empty and refill a portable extractor, 40 percent said about five minutes, another 40 percent said about 15 minutes, and the rest indicated about 10 minutes. According to Berger, it takes about 15 minutes to empty and refill a portable extractor.

- A question about the consequence of using too little water when cleaning carpets was answered correctly by 80 percent of the respondents. Chemical residue that can cause resoiling will be left in the carpets.

- Asked what would happen if too much water is left in carpets after cleaning, more than 80 percent knew this could result in mold and mildew developing.

"Finally, we asked how many times water can be refiltered/recycled in more advanced recycling portable carpet extractors," says Berjer. "Sixty percent indicated 'two or three times' and the rest 'three to five times.' However, the correct answer is seven times."