

# Sanitation Canada

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#### EDITORIAL OBJECTIVE

Sanitation Canada magazine is edited for the people who maintain high standards of sanitary cleaning in commercial, institutional, residential and industrial buildings (including, in particular, hospitals, schools, hotels and motels). The editorial objective of Sanitation Canada is to provide news and views about new technology, new sanitary cleaning methods, people within the vocation, methods for improving people management and news of educational opportunities.  
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## Top Five “Whys” of Floor Finish

**Y**ou might think the customer service department of a major professional cleaning equipment manufacturer would only receive questions about the company's machines.

However, according to Gary Pelphrey, general manager of Powr-Flite Direct, most of the floor care questions they receive regard floor *finish* and not equipment.

Below are the five most frequent floor care questions received by the Powr-Flite customer service department:

**(1) Why can't we strip / refinish floors in the winter months?**

The optimum temperature for stripping / refinishing floors is around 21 degrees Celsius (70 degrees Fahrenheit). Too cold – or too hot – and the finish may not adhere properly.

**(2) Why do we get streaks in our floor finish after it has dried?**

Streaks in the floor's finish can be caused by several factors, possibly the finish was not thoroughly dried before another coat was added; too many coats of finish have been applied; or the finish was applied too heavily.

**(3) Why are there swirls in the floor finish after burnishing?**

Again, there may be multiple reasons: possibly the wrong burnishing pad is being used; similarly, the pad may be too aggressive for the finish applied; too slow or too fast a burnisher is being used with a given burnishing pad.

**(4) Why is it so hard to remove the old finish on a floor?**

When refinishing floors, what many cleaning professionals forget is to allow the stripping solution to dwell on the floor for several minutes before stripping. This allows the chemical to break down the finish so it can be removed more easily.

**(5) Why does my floor finish “walk off” the floor?**

Make sure the finish applied is recommended for that specific type of floor. If the finish is formulated for a VCT floor, for example, it may not adhere properly to a stone, terrazzo or ceramic tile floor.

“Of course we always add one more answer no matter what the floor care question,” Pelphrey said. “We tell our callers, proper floor care is a systems approach requiring the right machine, chemicals and training.”