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Keeping Winter Floors Clean, Shiny and Safe

By Sofia A. Modesto

Winter is here and winter can be tough on floors. Adverse weather conditions often amplify floor care problems and make the need for a floor care maintenance program all the more important.

Below are a few tips to help keep your winter floors looking their best:

Grit Control. A floor maintenance program should start with “grit control” system. This helps reduce labor time and prevents slips and falls. The most efficient way to implement a grit control is by employing high performing matting systems to help collect and trap soil on shoes at all building entries. Interior matting is also needed to remove moisture and additional soils.

Increase Cleaning Frequencies. Snow and rain in winter months often mean that more moisture is brought into a facility. Increase mopping or autoscrubbing frequencies helps remove soil and prevent accidents. Also, make sure floors are adequately cleaned before burnishing, especially during the winter months, or grit and soil may be ground into the finish, marring its appearance and causing it to yellow.

Understand Ice Melters. Many areas of the country use chemical ice melters during the winter months. Cleaning professionals need to be aware of the impact these have on floors and safety. For instance, 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, an alternative to sodium chloride, absorbs moisture but turns it into a greasy film in warm buildings. Autoscrubbing can be very effective in these situations, because it removes grit and greasy residue, and helps prevent slips, falls, and damaged floors.

Prevent Finish-Adhesion Loss. A final winter floor care problem concerns finish adhesion. A floor finish on marginally porous floors, such as quarry tile, may produce a tough, high-gloss finish in warm months. However, the same floor may suffer finish-adhesion loss in the cold and gritty conditions of winter. Again, the best ways to prevent this are with mats that stop grit before it enters the facility, more frequent cleanings, and with autoscrubbing. It may also be necessary to recoat in the winter. Recoating should be performed when the floor temperature is 50° Fahrenheit (10° Celsius) or warmer, saying. If it is colder, cracks may develop in the finish, and more adhesion problems will result.

Winter floor care often does take more time and attention. Increasing floor maintenance programs and mechanizing floor work as much as possible will help reduce the time needed to maintain floors, decrease labor costs, and keep floors looking their very best. Floors can shine year-round. A proper maintenance program and effective floor care equipment are all you need.

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Tornado Industries has been designing and engineering quality cleaning equipment for more than 75 years. The company has a long history of developing innovative products and applying the latest technology to increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve safety. Tornado prides itself on always being on the cutting edge of floor care cleaning solutions.



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