

The First Facility Management Blog

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January 14th, 2011

Floor Care Tips

[Powr-Flite Direct](#), a Fort Worth, TX manufacturer of floor care equipment and carpet extractors, addresses the five questions most frequently asked of their customer service representatives.

1. Why can't we strip/refinish floors in the winter months?

The optimum temperature for stripping/refinishing floors is around 70°F. 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," says Gary Pelphrey, general manager at Powr-Flite Direct. "We tell our callers, proper floor care is a systems approach requiring the right machine, chemicals, and training."

LABELS [Cleaning](#), [Flooring](#), [Interiors](#)

Written by: Anne on Friday, January 14th, 2011 at 10:23 am

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January 13th, 2011

Haiti Repeat Avoidable With Enforced Building Codes

The following statement comes from Richard P. Weiland, [ICC](#) Chief Executive Officer, in honor of the one year anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Haiti.



One year after the horrific impacts of the earthquake in Haiti, we are reminded anew of the consequences of failing to build safe and sustainable communities. In countless ways before and after the Haiti tragedy, communities around the world and in the United States have withstood high fatality, injury, and property damage rates by ensuring that mandatory codes are in place and in force.

Every natural disaster reinforces the message that codes save lives. One look at three magnitude 7.1 earthquakes tells the story: last week's most recent quake in Chile, last year's Haiti quake, and the 1989 Loma Prieta quake in the greater San Francisco area. The recent 7.1 earthquake in Chile resulted in minimal damage, while the same magnitude quake in Haiti one year ago resulted in more than 300,000 lives lost, millions displaced, and most of Port au Prince's buildings severely damaged or destroyed. In the U.S., the 1989 Loma Prieta 7.1 earthquake, with an epicenter that was just south of the densely populated San Francisco bay area, caused 63 deaths and damaged 20,000 structures.

Further, last year a Chilean quake five times more powerful than Haiti's, registering at 8.8, also had a much less severe impact: under 1,000 lives were lost and less than 10% of the buildings were damaged or destroyed. Chile, like much of the United States, uses and enforces building codes.

We renew our call for a commitment from the Haitian government, the United Nations, and the donor nations supporting the Haiti recovery effort to seize the opportunity to create a disaster resistant nation that can serve as a model for others. Today in Haiti, overwhelming challenges of addressing basic sheltering, health, and environmental needs exist largely due to the failure of substandard structures and infrastructure. Many have organized to address this issue in targeted ways, but without a comprehensive, consistent, and enforceable approach on a national level, Haiti remains very vulnerable to further avoidable tragedy.

The Code Council remains committed to offering its services and expertise to the establishment

of a disaster resistant Haiti. We will continue our outreach to various organizations tasked with responsibility for recovery operations. We also encourage the various components of the U.S. government, including State Department entities such as US AID and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, along with the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA and the U.S. Department of Defense entities assisting in Haiti, to promote and require compliance with codes applicable to its grants and construction activities.

Study after study indicates that for every dollar spent on reducing risk, the average savings ranges from four to seven dollars. Do we really prefer another mass effort to provide search and rescue, food and shelter, basic medical needs and law enforcement over investment in smart building practices?

We sincerely hope that the next year will result in tangible progress toward a safer and more sustainable Haiti and an example of how codes are usable and necessary in all corners of the globe. Together with the international community of stakeholders, we have the tools and talent to assist in the building of a safer world.

LABELS [Building_Codes](#), [Codes](#), [Construction_Safety](#), [Earthquake](#), [Earthquakes](#), [Haiti](#), [ICC](#), [Natural Disasters](#), [Safety](#), [construction](#)

Written by: Heidi on Thursday, January 13th, 2011 at 11:32 am

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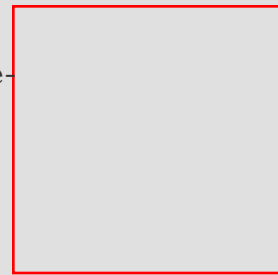
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January 14th, 2011

FRIDAY FUNNY: Tech Support Meets Who's On First



While this has been knocking around for some time, it's still quite funny. Imagine if Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today. Their infamous sketch, 'Who's on First?' might have turned out something like this:

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: Thanks I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: No, the name's Lou.

ABBOTT: Your computer?

COSTELLO: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.

ABBOTT: Mac?

COSTELLO: I told you, my name's Lou.

ABBOTT: What about Windows?

COSTELLO: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?

ABBOTT: Do you want a computer with Windows?

COSTELLO: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?

ABBOTT: Wallpaper.

COSTELLO: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.

ABBOTT: Software for Windows?

COSTELLO: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yeah, for my office. Can you recommend anything?

ABBOTT: I just did.

COSTELLO: You just did what?

ABBOTT: Recommend something.

COSTELLO: You recommended something?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: For my office?

ABBOTT: Yes.

COSTELLO: OK, what did you recommend for my office?

ABBOTT: Office.

COSTELLO: Yes, for my office!

ABBOTT: I recommend Office with Windows.

COSTELLO: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?

ABBOTT: Word.

COSTELLO: What word?

ABBOTT: Word in Office.

COSTELLO: The only word in office is office.

ABBOTT: The Word in Office for Windows.

COSTELLO: Which word in office for windows?

ABBOTT: The Word you get when you click the blue 'W'.

COSTELLO: I'm going to click your blue 'w' if you don't start with some straight answers. What about financial bookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: That's right. What do you have?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: I need money to track my money?

ABBOTT: It comes bundled with your computer.

COSTELLO: What's bundled with my computer?

ABBOTT: Money.

COSTELLO: Money comes with my computer?

ABBOTT: Yes. No extra charge*.

COSTELLO: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?

ABBOTT: One copy.

COSTELLO: Isn't it illegal to copy money?

ABBOTT: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

COSTELLO: They can give you a license to copy money?

ABBOTT: Why not? THEY OWN IT!

(A few days later)

ABBOTT: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?

COSTELLO: How do I turn my computer off?

ABBOTT: Click on 'START'

For a related Friday Funny from FacilityBlog, check this [link](#).

* *Yes, this is somewhat [out of date](#), but it's still funny!*

LABELS [Friday Funny](#), [Tech Support](#), [Technology](#), [computer](#)

Written by: Heidi on Friday, January 14th, 2011 at 11:05 am

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