

Some smaller facilities with little foot traffic may want a “shinier” floor, but want it done at minimal cost. In this case, either a small rotary buffer or cylindrical machine should do the job.

It is when the facility is larger and places a high value on the floor's appearance that BSCs must decide whether to select a rotary or cylindrical machine. Both can produce excellent results. If the floor is even, minimally porous, can be sealed with a tough protective finish, and only needs moderate attention throughout the year, a conventional rotary-styled machine will suffice.

However, if the floor is porous, as with some marble, is a tile and grout floor, uneven, or there are concerns about the floor care's impact on the environment, a cylindrical machine may provide more satisfactory results.

Additionally, because these machines tend to improve worker productivity, they can produce a significant cost and labor savings—a big concern when maintaining a facility with hundreds of square feet of hard surface floor.

It is interesting to note that floor care equipment changed relatively little from the early 1900s until the mid-1970s. In fact, in my office today, I have on display a 1950s-era floor machine that looks surprisingly similar to floor machines still being manufactured today.

However, significant advances have been made recently and we are likely to see even more in the future, with continued focus on equipment that makes floor care an easier, less labor intensive task. As concerns mount about safeguarding the environment, we can also expect to see more floor machines introduced that help minimize stripping and refinishing cycles, use less chemical and water, and have improved filtration and vacuum systems to help protect indoor air quality.

Mike Schaffer is president of Tornado Industries, a Chicago-based manufacturer of a full-range of professional cleaning equipment including floor machines, vacuum cleaners, and carpet extractors.



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