

# **INFORMATION**

## **BULLETIN**

**SUBJECT: Floor Care – Quat Staining**

**SECTION: II**  
**NUMBER: 3**  
**DATE: 6/1/03**

On occasion, we receive reports from accounts describing a floor stain condition that has slowly built-up over time.

The description of the stain ranges from a dark yellow to rust color appearing in various degrees on perimeter areas of patient rooms or lavatories.

We have consulted with flooring manufacturers regarding this condition on resilient flooring.

Experts describe this situation as occurring when quaternary detergent disinfectants are utilized routinely to damp mop resilient flooring. Daily room mopping, over time, causes a build-up of the active quaternary ingredient in areas where little or no foot traffic will remove the minute amounts of quaternary actives.

In addition, damp mopping only does not provide enough mechanical or chemical action to remove this build-up and subsequently the condition is added to on a regular basis. As time progresses, this active layer of quaternary ingredients takes on a rust color, staining the finish and under severe conditions, the tile. At this point the only corrective action is to completely strip the floor with additional scrubbing required where the stain has appeared.

Preventative maintenance as part of the room cleaning routine will prevent this situation from occurring.

Occasional wet mopping or auto scrubbing with either the disinfectant product or an all-purpose cleaner, will by increasing mechanical action, prevent build-up of the active ingredient not allowing the stain to start.

In addition, any minimal traffic areas such as closets or restrooms need to be checked after regular mopping to remove any puddling caused by the mop being pulled around corner areas, such as toilets, which can result in excess liquid sitting on the floor, drying, and leaving excess solid and active ingredient layers.

In addition, routine scrubbing, thorough rinsing and recoat with floor finish will not only keep the floor clean, but will provide better protection of the entire floor substrate against premature wear.

Thorough routine maintenance can also save significant labor dollars by extending the time between costly and hectic strip outs.