

INFORMATION

BULLETIN

SUBJECT: Floor Care - Neutralizers

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Reckitt Benckiser Professional does not recommend the use of neutralizers as part of a strip out operation for the following reasons:

Neutralizers normally consist of either a bicarbonate powder dissolved in the rinse water or a mild acid (vinegar) - both of which are supposed to counteract the alkaline effects of a stripper. Here is where potential problems occur.

The bicarbonate, if not rinsed off the floor, can leave a fine layer of powder, which can affect the finish's gloss, adhesion, leveling and ultimate wearability. Rinsing of the alkaline stripper with water will remove any/all residue and restore a floor's pH to around 7 (neutral).

The use of a mild acid, such as vinegar, is claimed to counteract the alkaline stripper's pH to achieve a surface that has been neutralized. However, maintenance crews utilize this procedure as a shortcut, leaving stripper residue, which will affect finish performance or will actually provide a floor pH on the acid side. Floor finishes (pH 8.5 - 8.8) are very sensitive to acid pH.

To see this result for yourself, take a small jar of floor finish and pour a slight amount of vinegar and water into the finish. You will instantly see the result of adding an acid to an alkaline finish.

Based on our experience, floor neutralizers are poor shortcuts to a professional floor care program. One additional plain water rinse prepares the tile substrate better than any neutralizer.

It is for this reason that Reckitt Benckiser Professional recommends only clean water rinses when stripping floors. The floor finish will perform to its optimum and last longer which is the ultimate goal in floor care - to significantly extend the time between stripping operations, the most costly and time consuming portion.