

## **Introduction to Hard Surface Floor Care**

Why is the care of Hard Surface Floors important? There are two main reasons:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Appearance
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Health and Safety

How a floor looks says a great deal about the business it houses.

Customers and potential customers will form opinions about a business based on the appearance of its facilities. What opinions would you form about an establishment that had worn and dirty floors? Would that affect your judgment of the goods and services they offered? What about the work environment? Studies have shown that a clean, bright and pleasant work atmosphere improves attitudes and work performance.

A clean floor is safe and healthy. Contrary to what some people think, a shiny floor is NOT slippery. Quality Floor Finishes must meet ASTM\* tests to prove their slip resistance. A floor that appears dull and dirty is often "Powdery" and Slippery. Many soils can be wet and slick resulting in falls and serious injury. A fall that causes an injury can have a serious economic impact on a business. Medical bills, litigation and the loss of a key employee can all add up to BIG DOLLARS. Everything that you could potentially walk through ends up on your floors. That includes oils, hazardous chemicals, herbicides, pesticides, food, blood, fecal and urine droppings, bacteria disease causing pathogens, molds, allergens, and a whole list of other unpleasant and unhealthy things. A clean floor is a Healthy Floor especially in today's self-contained buildings where INDOOR AIR QUALITY is an issue.

Maintaining a Hard Surface Floor is an important issue. While cost is always a factor it is important to remember that the more a floor deteriorates, the more it will cost in materials and labor to bring it back to the desired appearance level. Stripping a floor down to a bare surface and re-applying multiple coats of floor finish takes a good deal of time as finish needs to dry thoroughly between coats.

As the saying goes, "Time is Money". Technology is not limited to computers, medicine, science and space travel. New materials and equipment make the job of maintaining floors easier and produce better results.

\*ASTM-American Society Testing Materials, a non-governmental, non-regulatory agency for testing materials, much like *Underwriters Laboratories*.