

## Seven Key Elements in a Green Floor Care Program

### **Prevention**

- Stop dirt and soil before it enters the facility.
- Proper matting is the least expensive and easiest way to maintain floor surfaces.
- Twelve feet of entry matting positioned both inside and outside all entrances and exits will help capture a lot of abrasive sand, dirt and debris.

### **Perception**

- All floors need to be cleaned except those that have had no pedestrian traffic.
- The extent of cleaning required depends on traffic load ranging from simple dust mopping to full blown use of an automatic scrubber.
- Maximum floor durability, appearance and safety are achieved by regularly scheduled cleaning and burnishing which minimizes scrubbing & recoating and stripping & recoating.

### **Train All Staff**

- Operators, Managers and Supervisors should all be involved in on-going educational programs that involve the latest techniques and products available to janitorial and sanitation workers.
- Industry associations and organizations are a good source for objective reviews of new techniques and floor care programs.

### **Practice Safe Procedures.**

- Every program should include reading Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), the wearing of protective clothing (PPE), records keeping, and safety meetings.
- Use wet floor signs, barricade tape, and avoidance scheduling to make floor care safer.

### **Control and Measure.**

- Establish quality assurance guidelines, inspect to verify compliance and make corrections if necessary.
- Document the process, watch for trends, and improve.
- Use quantitative tests to validate results.

### **Chemical Selection**

- Use environmentally preferable purchasing.
- Use products recognized by third party organizations such as DfE, EcoLogo, or Green Seal.
- For daily cleaning, use neutral pH products.

### **Practical procedures**

- Protect indoor air quality by vacuuming instead of sweeping or dry mopping if feasible.
- Maintain all floor equipment – scrubbers, buffers burnishers and stripping machines – to ensure that they are performing at peak levels with safe and clean operation.
- Use equipment with passive or active vacuum, dust covers and floor shrouds to capture and contain airborne particulates generated during floor care operations.
- Never dump wastewater or slurry on the grounds, in parking lots, or storm sewers. Always dispose of them in sanitary sewers.