



Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic C359: Stripping & Waxing Floors

**Introduction:** Stripping and waxing of floors is necessary for major renovation of floor surfaces. Though this is a fairly routine maintenance job, it does present hazards to employees from equipment, electrical hazards, chemicals, slip/fall hazards, and lifting hazards. Following are guidelines for safety when waxing and stripping floors:

### General Safety Requirements:

- Employers must ensure that personnel are trained to safely handle equipment, tools, and chemicals used in stripping and waxing floors.
- Employees must wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. PPE may include:
  - Eye/face protection: use while mixing and working with chemicals, to avoid chemical fumes and splash hazards.
  - Gloves: use chemical resistant rubber gloves for handling chemicals which may be caustic or a skin irritant.
  - Non-slip sturdy shoes/boots
  - Long sleeve shirts and pants
  - Apron: to prevent contact with hazardous chemicals through clothing.
  - Hearing protection: if working with exceptionally noisy machinery
  - Knee pads: for work where repeated kneeling or work in a kneeling position is required.
- Post "Caution Wet Floor" signs or barricades before beginning work. Place walk off mats at entrances and exits to prevent slipping.
- Assemble all tools, materials, and equipment prior to beginning work to prevent excess traffic in and out of work areas.
- Carefully measure and add stripper or chemicals to water, not water to chemicals, to prevent splash hazards.
- Don't mix chemicals with chemicals unless instructed to do so by the manufacturer. Use clean buckets, wringers, and mops when changing from one chemical to another.
- Read and follow MSDS for all chemicals on the job. Always follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- Do not smoke around chemicals, or in areas where chemicals are being used.
- When using a mop, stand upright and grip the handle comfortably to avoid back injury and fatigue.
- Take short steps when working on a wet floor. Keep your feet under you and maintain your balance at all times. Avoid overreaching when working on wet floors. Use special caution when moving from a dry to wet floor or to a lower level surface such as stairs.
- Use safe lifting practices when working.
- Do not carry loads which obstruct your view of the pathway.
- Get help or use mechanical devices to move heavy loads.
- Store used rags or oily dust mop heads in covered metal containers to prevent combustion.

### Electrical Safety:

- Always unplug any equipment before performing repairs or maintenance such as changing pad holders on floor machines.
- Check all electrical cords for cracks, breaks, fraying, or excessive wear before using the cord or equipment. Do not use a cord which has been repaired with tape. Check cord connections to the equipment.
- Watch for low ceiling fixtures and electrical hazards when wringing a mop in the bucket.
- Use only heavy duty industrial extension cords equipped with three prong grounding protection.
- Do not pull an electric cord from the wall by the cord. Do not pull or carry equipment by the cord.
- Report any malfunctions or equipment in need of repair to your supervisor immediately, and remove the extension cord or equipment from service until it is properly repaired.

**Conclusion:** Always be aware of your surroundings when working on floors. When running a floor machine or mop, you are often moving backward. Watch out for sharp edges or furniture corners, and keep the machine cord out of your way as you work. Follow the guidelines to ensure safe operation.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*