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[BSCS Sound Off on Cleaning Equipment](#)

Conventional 175 rpm floor machines are considered "essential" according to a just completed Tornado e-poll of building service contractors (BSCs). More than 85 percent of the more than 100 cleaning professionals polled said this cleaning tool is a "must-have" to meet their customers' cleaning needs.

The survey also found that HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaners, which help protect indoor air quality, are also becoming "must-have" machines. Fully 80 percent of those surveyed said owning a HEPA vacuum cleaner was "somewhat important" or "very important."

The Tornado e-poll surveys jan/san distributors, BSCs, facility service providers, and other cleaning professionals on pertinent issues facing their businesses and the industry. It is conducted for Tornado®, a manufacturer of professional cleaning

equipment.

Among other findings:

Weight, power, and performance were the big considerations when selecting a backpack vacuum, say 80 percent of the respondents. When deciding on an upright vacuum cleaner, BSCs look for machines that are reliable, 41 percent, and have significant power and performance, 35 percent. Eighty-six percent indicated they were familiar with cylindrical brush floor machines, which have brushes instead of rotary pads. Of those who have purchased a cylindrical brush floor machine, 37 percent said they selected it because of "ease of operation" while 34 percent said the reason was "it does not splatter against walls or furniture."

"About half of the respondents said they were not interested in ride-on carpet extractors simply because they do not clean facilities large enough to require them," says Jolynn Kennedy, marketing manager for Tornado. "However, when asked if they would be interested in a smaller walk-behind extractor, fully 70 percent said yes."

According to Kennedy, this e-poll indicates that BSCs know what they want when it comes to selecting jan/san equipment. "Low cost of ownership is paramount because it increases profit margins. We saw this over and over again in the responses along with the need for equipment that is reliable, powerful, and performs," she says.

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