

Case Study - Education

A Floor Machine That Makes People Smile

Water-based urethane finishes are frequently used on terrazzo and vinyl composition tile (VCT) floors found in K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities. Custodial managers find these finishes to be durable and stain resistant.

"This finish is harder than many acrylic-type finishes," says John Moberly, corporate accounts manager for Tornado Industries, a leading manufacturer of professional cleaning equipment. "However, that does not mean it is maintenance-free."

For example, one of Moberly's education customers, a liberal arts college located in Greensborough, NC, discovered linear "scratch lines" in the urethane finish of one of their school's floors.

"Soil gets embedded in these scratch lines and it is very difficult to remove," says Moberly. "In time, it can ruin the appearance of the entire floor."

Conventional rotary machines usually are not effective at removing this soil because they cannot penetrate deep below the floor surface to remove the grit. And using too coarse a pad can damage the finish.

To tackle the problem, Moberly suggested the college consider using cylindrical brush technology and recommended Tornado's BR 400.

Instead of pads, the BR 400 uses cylindrical brushes, which counter-rotate at 1,000 rpm. The brushes scrub deep into porous areas removing soils and contaminants.

"These machines are also very easy to work with," adds Moberly. "Rotary machines work against the user—cylindrical brush machines work with the user because they essentially float over the floor."

The school administrators definitely were interested in cylindrical brush technology and the BR 400. However, could the machine remove the embedded soil in the scratches?

"We tested the BR 400 on one of the facility's problem floor," says Moberly. "When I finished, the soil was gone and there were smiling faces all around me. The BR 400 makes these school floors—and I'd say just about all floors—look terrific."



BR400 Automatic Floor Scrubber