**Stripping Vinyl Asbestos Floor Tiles**

* Only strip the floors when the building is not occupied (during the summer and other vacation periods).

Before you begin, make sure you thoroughly understand how to operate the machines. Know which pads are for which types of floor-care maintenance operations.

First, apply a compatible floor finish remover or stripper with a mop. Allow enough time for the stripper to liquefy the finish. (Make sure you know how to safely handle the different chemical products used in this activity. If you have any questions or problems, consult with your floor finish products manufacturer for advice.)

Always strip the floor wet. Scrub the floor using the least abrasive pad or brush possible. Generally the black pads are the most abrasive, the white pad the least abrasive. Run the machine at a low rate of speed.

Use a wet vacuum to thoroughly clean the floor and remove the old wax and finish.

If necessary, repeat this operation until all the existing finish is removed.

**Thoroughly rinse the floor after all existing finish is removed.

Finishing Your Asbestos Floor Tile**

**Applying a Sealer**

If you can, apply two or three layers of wax to the tiles. This helps to keep contact with the floor tiles to a minimum during future floor maintenance activities.

**Applying the Finisher**

Again, apply up to but no more than 3 coats of a good finisher. Allow each coat enough time to cure and dry before applying the next coat.

**Dry Buffing the Floor**

Make sure your floors are well sealed and /or finished before you begin. Run the machine used to buff the floor at a lowest rate of speed possible.

**Maintaining Your Floor Tiles**

**Routine Cleaning**

Use a wet mop for routine cleaning whenever possible. If you do dry mop, don't use a petroleum-based mop- it eats away at the wax.

**Spray Buffing**

Whenever you spray buff with a polishing or rejuvenator liquid, use the least abrasive pad possible. Run the floor machine at a lowest rate of speed possible to get the job done.

**Wet Scrubbing**

Whenever you wet scrub the floor with a neutral cleaner or water, use the least abrasive pad possible. Run the floor machine at a lowest rate of speed possible to get the job done. Use a wet vacuum, to pick up the resulting liquid. After the floor is dry, re-coat it with a compatible finish.

**The Four Main Points to Remember**

* Use the least abrasive pads you can.
* Operate the floor machine at the lowest rate of speed as possible.
* Use a wet vacuum to pick up liquids resulting from floor maintenance activities.
* Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations when using any floor cleaning and finishing products.