

Safe Work Procedure: Using a Floor Scrubber

Department/Area:	Approved by:	Date Created:	Review/Revision Date:
Custodial	Workplace Safety and Health Committee	Nov.15, 2023	Annually

Potential Hazard	Risk level
Surfaces causing falls - wet floors	Medium
Moving machinery	Low
Chemicals - mixing, pouring chemicals	Low
Explosion if near flammable material/vapours	Low

Risk control devices, personal protective equipment, and other safety considerations	Training/Reference info
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety, non-slip footwear • Gloves, chemical goggles when handling chemicals as per the supplier or workplace label • Do not use machine with or near flammable materials or vapours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-the-Job training • WHMIS training • SDS for product • Operations manual

Note: Common signs and symptoms of a musculoskeletal injury (MSI) can include pain, burning, swelling, stiffness, numbness/tingling, and/or loss of movement or strength in a body part. Report these to your supervisor.

The direct supervisor must ensure that employees who report to him/her are trained and follow this safe work procedure.

Steps to complete this task safely:

Note: This procedure is for self-propelled or ride-on floor scrubbers.

- Check the equipment for any obvious defects or damage. If the equipment is damaged, do not use it and notify your supervisor.
- Place caution signs and barricades that are required in work area(s).
- Get help to move large or heavy objects or furniture. Remember to try to keep your back straight and use your weight to slide objects rather than using only your arms. If you're lifting, bend your knees and push through your legs. Communicate the timing for the lift if you are lifting with another worker.
- For stripping or cleaning floors:
 - Slowly mix the chemical with water in a bucket according to the chemical's label, or put a hose into the tank to fill it and then add the cleaning product. If you're



using a bucket, only fill it three-quarters full to reduce spills. Pour the mixture into the machine's tank slowly to avoid spilling. Know where to find the SDS sheets in the event of a chemical accident or spill.

- Before starting a ride on the machine, stand on the pedal platform.
- When operating the floor machine, be cautious of any grades, because this can increase the risks of tipping, the machine becoming stuck, or travelling too fast. Do not operate scrubber mechanisms on grades over two per cent, and do not travel with the scrubber on grades over 10 per cent or over what is indicated in the manufacturer's guidelines.
- Be cautious when stepping from the machine onto the floor, because the floors may be slippery from the fluid.
- Before leaving, servicing or charging, stop the machine on a level surface, turn it off, apply the parking brake and remove the key.