

Ways to Reduce Water Consumption When Cleaning Carpets

A key goal of a Green and sustainable floor care maintenance program is to minimize floor refinishing cycles. This is because some of the chemicals and glosses can have a negative impact on the user and the environment.

While it does not receive quite as much attention, many facility managers (FMs) are also looking for ways to minimize the number of times carpets must be extracted for environmental reasons as well. The goals here are to minimize chemical use and, most notably, reduce water consumption.

Older extractors can use more than 1.5 gallons of water per minute. Not only is this a lot of water, it also generates a lot of waste.

Doug Berjer, product manager for CFR, manufacturer of filtering and recycling carpet extractors, suggests the following ways FMs can stretch extraction cycles and reduce chemical and water use to help protect the environment:

- End scheduling: Some carpets are extracted based on a set schedule whether they need it or not.
- Prioritize daily maintenance: Some carpeted areas receive more traffic than others; give these areas more daily time and cleaning attention.
- Vacuum more frequently: Eighty percent of all carpet soiling is dry soils, which can often be removed by more thorough and frequent vacuuming.
- Spotting specialist: Appoint a “spotting specialist” to remove spots from carpets every week
- Employ recycling technologies: Carpet extractors that recycle water/cleaning solution can reduce water use **by more than 80 percent**

Ending 1:

“Proper machine maintenance is also imperative,” says Berjer. “Some extractors only receive [maintenance] attention when they break down. Regularly insuring that user serviceable parts and components are working

properly can help ensure less water is used and delay another cycle...machine downtime.”

Ending 2:

Berjer adds that while he realizes FMs want to reduce water consumption and carpet cleaning’s impact on the environment, “They must always remember, we clean carpets to protect health and that must always be our first priority.”