

Safety When Stripping and Waxing Floors

Floor stripping refers to completely removing old wax, soil and debris found on the floor. It is a very labor intensive and time consuming job. Schools often undertake this project when classes are out for summer recess. It is not done only in schools. Tile floors exist in many governmental buildings. We've seen numerous injuries to employees who slip and fall while performing this task. To help promote safety we recommend:

- Wear safety clothing, including goggles, gloves, and stripper (safety) slippers or non-slip shoes. There are a variety of suppliers who have this product that fits over shoes or boots.
- Post safety cones around the work area. Not only will it notify others, it will serve as a reminder to you of the slip-and-fall hazard that exists.
- Don't work in too large a work area. Always section off the floor and work in one area at a time. A good rule of thumb is no more than 100 square feet should be attempted at a time.
- Inspect and maintain equipment before using it.
- Apply a non-slip wax
- Follow directions for products and equipment used. Follow Safety Data Sheets warnings
- **WHEN PLANNING THE JOB, INCLUDE HAZARD ASSESSMENT AND SAFETY PROCEDURES!**

