



CLEAN IS CHANGING

Let's build a brighter,
cleaner future together



How to Select the Right Cleaning Equipment for Your School

Choosing the right cleaning equipment will create a positive and productive learning environment



The Challenges and the Rewards of Cleaner Schools

Research shows that students learn best in clean, comfortable environments. And on the flip side, poorly maintained learning environments can lead to distractions and missed days.

That's why it's so important to maintain the highest levels of cleanliness in your school. Although it can be challenging when you're trying to cut costs and manage your budgets, we're here to help you maximize your cleaning efficiency, effectiveness and environmental friendliness, all while reducing waste and expense.

We created this guide to help you improve your cleaning processes, minimize your costs and create the cleanest, healthiest environments for your students.





Always Start with Prevention

It's far less expensive to keep the dirt and grime out of your facilities than it is to get it out after it's there. That's why you should always start your cleaning program where you get the most bang for your buck — outside of your facility.

- Regularly clean your entrances
- Install matting at entryways
- Filter air to reduce airborne dust
- Encourage students and staff to pick up outdoor trash and litter when they see it.



Follow Best Practices and Use the Right Machines

There are good ways and better ways to ensure the cleanliness of your schools. Choosing the right cleaning machines is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Make sure you partner with a manufacturer who is familiar with all of the cleaning equipment on the market - don't save on shorter-term costs by purchasing low-quality, cut-rate equipment. Consider the cost throughout the lifetime of the machine as a better investment will pay out in the end. And more often than not, the real cost of cleaning your school comes from the labor, not the machine.

Now let's take a look at your two main school cleaning challenges: **Cleaning carpets and cleaning hard floors.**

Cleaning Carpets

Cleaning Carpets

Many schools have a lot of carpeted floors that see a lot of foot traffic. When carpets aren't properly maintained, the appearance degrades and they wear out more quickly. So you need to establish two cleaning routines:

1. Daily cleaning

2. Periodic, restorative cleaning

The most common daily cleaning activity is vacuuming. Effective dirt removal from your carpets requires a commercial grade, high quality vacuum. In the next chapter we'll show you how to find one.





Daily Cleaning

How to Buy a Vacuum

There are a lot of low-quality, inefficient vacuums on the market. Don't get stuck with one. Here are some things to look for when you need a high-performance, high-quality vacuum:

- 1. CRI approval.** The Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) scientifically tests and evaluates vacuum cleaners. A vacuum with CRI Approval will deliver excellent cleaning results without damaging your carpets. .
- 2. Powerful dirt removal.** Sounds obvious, but it's amazing how many vacuums fall short of the power and performance you need to effectively remove dirt and debris from your carpets. .
- 3. HEPA filtration.** As long as you're doing the work, don't stop at dust and dirt. HEPA filters will help remove the viruses, bacteria and allergens that are lurking in your carpets. And, more importantly, after they're removed the HEPA filter will prevent them from exiting the vacuum through exhaust air.

- 4. Edge cleaning.** Some vacuums are effective for edge cleaning, but many aren't. Ineffective vacuums will leave a gray, dusty edge along your walls.
- 5. The right style for your job.** Vacuums come in a lot of shapes and sizes. Do you buy an upright? A backpack? A canister? A wide area vac? Each is designed for a specific task, and each has its own specific strengths and weaknesses. Consult an expert to help you decide which is best for your job.
- 6. Simplicity.** Don't under-estimate the value of a simple, easy-to-use machine that works. Your cleaners will thank you for years to come for simple, quiet vacuums that are lightweight and easy to unclog
- 7. Consider a sweeper.** Maybe it's not a vacuum you need after all. If you have large, open areas, a commercial sweeper with dust control may be your best all-around bet.



Periodic, Restorative Cleaning

There are no hard-and-fast rules for when you need to "restore" your carpets. Do it when they need it and you have the time, resources and money. Timing depends on a lot of factors, including time of year (winters can be brutal on carpets), traffic load, special events, or a big spill. Extraction removes all the stuff that vacuums can't: oils, grease, sticky sodas, coffee, soil, etc.

Here are some tips for deep cleaning your carpets:

- 1. Always vacuum first.**
- 2. Use a carpet spotter for areas with significant soilage.**
- 3. Don't assume you need chemicals.** Water alone can often get the job done.

- 4. Dry your carpets as fast as possible to avoid mold.**
- 5. Like vacuums, look for extractors with the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) approval.**
And for extractors, a "machine-based CRI" is better than a "system-based CRI".

Carpet extractors come in two varieties:

1. Self-contained extractors

2. Portable extractors

(or “box and wand extractors”)



1. Self-contained Extractors

Let's start with self-contained extractors. These simple machines have been on the market for decades. Besides the motor, they contain a solution tank, a recovery tank, a brush for agitating the carpet fibers, and a vacuum shoe to recover the dirt, soil, stains, etc. that have been removed from the carpet.

Here's what you need to know about self-contained extractors:

- **They're the easiest to use from a labor and training standpoint**
- **The brush does the cleaning, so pump pressure isn't really important.**
- **More water volume to the carpet isn't necessarily better.** Getting good results with less water allows you to clean longer without emptying and refilling your tank and leads to shorter dry times.
- **The vacuum shoe may be the most important component of the machine.** To minimize drying time, it needs to have continuous contact with the carpet and provide even suction across its entire width.
- **Look for machines that have a single spray jet.** Extractor water jets can get clogged, and single jets clog less. Plus, they provide more consistent coverage.
- **Also look for machines with easy-to-remove recovery tanks and easy-to-clean shoes.** Carpet cleaning can be nasty business, and you want your staff to be able to easily dispose of grime.
- Finally, to get the most from your extractor investment, look for machines that can also do hard floors, clean hard-to-reach spots (with a wand), remove spots, and alternate between deep-cleaning and interim extraction.

Periodic, Restorative Cleaning



2. Portable Extractors (also known as Box and Wand Extractors)

Portable extractors are easily recognized by their shape: basically a tank on wheels that has a solution and recovery area, a pressure pump, a vacuum, a long hose, a wand to do the cleaning, and sometimes an inline heater.

Here's what you need to know about portable extractors:

- **Despite their name, portable extractors can be difficult to transport.** Make sure you get one that's easy to move to your cleaning areas.
- **Pressure and heat matter! Ideally you want both.** Heat helps release the oils and soils that stick to carpet fibers. And since there are no brushes, you need pressure to knock the debris off the fibers. If you have to choose, pick heat over pressure for better cleaning. Although note that wool-containing carpets should not be exposed to heat above 212° F.
- **A high-performance, high power vacuum is also important for pulling the water and soil out of your carpet.**
- **The wand is key: it's where the cleaning action takes place.** Stainless is often best, but they're heavy and can wear out your operators. A lighter weight wand with an ergonomic handle and a Teflon head will improve the productivity and efficiency of your cleaning staff.

Cleaning Hard Floors

If you're still using mops and buckets, it may be time to consider a better solution.

- Mops and buckets are messy and difficult to use
- They leave your floors wet, slippery and dangerous
- The awkward cleaning motion can cause back and strain injuries
- Mops simply don't deliver the results you want: a clean, safe, dry floor

- Mops attribute to cross contamination by spreading dirt across the entire floor, degrading shine

Your more effective, safer, easier-to-use solution for hard-floor cleaning? Hands down, an automatic scrubber.

The Advantages of Automatic Scrubbers

An automatic scrubber is a machine that puts down a cleaning solution from an onboard tank, agitates

it with a brush or pad and then sucks up the used solution with a squeegee/vacuum system.

There are many different types and sizes of automatic scrubbers, all developed to tackle specific cleaning situations. Pick a partner with a dealer who can recommend the right machine for your needs. Keep in mind that most of the cost to clean comes from labor, not the machine. It pays to purchase a reliable machine that will give you years of effective scrubbing.



How to Choose an Automatic Scrubber

There is no more important component on an automatic scrubber than the scrubbing deck.



You have three main scrubber options to choose from:

1. Disc Scrubbers

- The most commonly used
- Can use either pads or brushes
- Cleans aggressively to remove even stubborn, stuck-on soils
- Typically the lowest cost scrubbers available

2. Cylindrical Scrubbers

- Uses two cylindrical brushes
- Can usually run longer on a tank than disc scrubbers
- Especially effective on grouted surfaces
- Able to pick up debris during scrubbing, eliminating the sweeping step

3. Random Orbital Scrubbers

- This newest scrubbing technology can use either brushes or pads

- Highly efficient cleaning action removes debris from all sides
- Uses water extremely efficiently
- Is able to clean right up against walls - rectangular only
- Chemical-free floor finish removal: can remove floor finish without dangerous stripping chemicals and time-consuming labor
 - Can cut labor costs by up to 90% for a floor recoat
 - Eliminates the need for stripping almost entirely
- Your most environmentally friendly choice

How to Choose an Automatic Scrubber



Other features to look for in a scrubber:

- Machines that scrub and dry floors in a single pass for better productivity and safety
- Large tank openings that are easier and faster to clean
- Tanks that drain completely
- An Onboard Chemical System for more flexibility:
 - Allows on-the-fly changes between no chemical, some chemical and more chemical, depending on the level of cleaning you need
 - Allows more or less down pressure and water
- An easy-to-use and intuitive operator interface
- A comfortable seat and ergonomic design for rider scrubbers

If you've always used a walk-behind scrubber, keep in mind that facilities are moving to riders for a good reason: they can quickly pay for themselves in higher productivity, improved safety and greater operator satisfaction.

Who we are

With a global presence and more than 115 years of experience as a leader in the floor cleaning industry, Nilfisk delivers innovative, effective, sustainable cleaning solutions that help deliver the highest levels of cleanliness and improve quality of life for the people who use your facilities.

We're committed to understanding our customers' needs, and innovation drives our complete range of products:

- Floor cleaning equipment, industrial vacuums, power washers
- Products that deliver high quality cleaning, multi-tasking flexibility and easy maintenance
- A complete line of advanced, intelligent products, including the first Hybrid and ePower™ Drive Combination Sweeper-Scrubbers with fuel-cell technology, and our revolutionary Ecoflex™ System.

Because at Nilfisk, we design solutions that make doing business easier. Whether in a hospital or office, heavy industry or school, airport or library, no job is too big or too small for Nilfisk products. We ensure customer satisfaction and world-class service through our global sales and support network.

At Nilfisk we don't see a world of cleaning problems ... we see a future brimming with cleaning opportunities.



Outshine Industry Standards with Nilfisk



To learn more about our cleaning solutions, request a demo or for pricing and ordering information, please contact us today at:

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