

STP 1448

Technology of
FLOOR
Maintenance and Current Trends

Editor:
William J. Schalitz



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Maintenance and
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Foreword

This publication, *Technology of Floor Maintenance and Current Trends*, contains papers presented at the symposium of the same name held in Las Vegas, Nevada on 14 October 2002. ASTM International Committee D21 on Polishes and the International Sanitary Supply Association (ISSA) sponsored the symposium. The symposium chairman was William J. Schalitz, Spartan Chemical Company, Inc, Maumee, Ohio.

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Overview

ASTM Committee D21 on Polishes is charged with the responsibility of establishing the consensus standards by which floor polish composition, performance, and safety are determined. In conjunction with this responsibility comes a requirement, or unwritten expectation, that the consuming public of these polishes be educated to a degree which allows them to not only understand the governing standards issued by Committee D21, but also make informed decisions concerning the considerable amount of “alternative” opinions they are presented with on a consistent basis.

To support the Committee’s consumer outreach, D21 organized a general topics symposium, titled “Technology of Floor Maintenance and Current Trends”, that was held on October 14, 2002 in Las Vegas, NV. To maximize the symposium’s exposure in terms of polish users, marketers, and manufacturers, it was held in conjunction with the International Sanitary Supply Association (ISSA) annual convention. ISSA is the premier trade association for the industrial and institutional cleaning industry, with the annual convention drawing in excess of 15,000 attendees and 700 exhibitors. The results of this cooperative effort were clearly demonstrated in the fact that the symposium was well attended by a group that demographically represented exactly the target market we had hoped to reach.

The papers found in this book are not limited to those presented at the Technology of Floor Maintenance and Current Trends Symposium. Additional authors have contributed to ensure that the publication has a broad base of appeal from the formulation chemist developing polishes to the facilities manager who is looking to better manage his floor care program. From a general standpoint, the papers can be broken down into three broad categories relevant to the current state of the polish industry.

The publication gets started with a block of papers focused on the various chemistries involved in building polishes and associated coatings. The first paper provides a thorough review of floor polish chemistry and presents it in such a manner that allows even non-technical individuals the ability to better understand the dynamics associated with floor polish formulation. After a review of the chemistry involved, the subject matter turns to two very significant areas of concern: maintenance and static coefficient of friction.

Static coefficient of friction, and therefore general floor polish safety, is an enormous area of debate and conflicting information in the industry. This section presents papers that clearly define what exactly coefficient of friction (COF) is, how it is to be measured correctly in accordance with ASTM standards, and the pro’s and con’s associated with other means by which it is claimed that COF can be quantitatively measured. There is a general review of polish maintenance techniques and a critical paper encompassing the relationship between the static coefficient of friction of newly applied floor polish and that same finish, which has been subjected to various industry standard maintenance techniques over time.

The final group of papers discusses floor polishes in terms of the legal aspects associated with a slip incidence and also regulatory issues that impact these coatings. The information provided here gives facility managers the tools to help be proactive in preventing slip incidents and some thoughts on the proper manner in which to respond if such an event should occur. Through presentation of an actual case history, one author provides a meticulous investigative outline that is applicable to those involved in the discovery phase of a slip claim. Lastly, the publication closes with a review of those regulatory issues that currently effect floor polishes.

Significant and pertinent information is presented here in relationship to floor polishes and the body of knowledge that is currently available. Although much of this work will remain relevant as technology in the field of polymer chemistry progresses, the information found here must be viewed as a foundation from which ASTM Committee D21 will need to build as advances in this scope of interest come forth.

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