

Buying the Proper Cleaning Equipment

Some of the most important points to consider

Vacuum Cleaners

- **Efficient filters** – These are extremely important in preventing the majority of fine soil particles (dust) from being redistributed into the air. Remember that a vacuum without a good filter is like using a leaf blower throughout your facility. Poor filtration causes motor failure, excessive dusting due to dirt on the horizontal surfaces and reduced indoor air quality.
- **Strong Consistent Air-flow (CFM)** – From the point where the air stream begins all the way through the vacuum filter, chamber and bag, a powerful air stream helps draw more dry soil out of carpet, as well as carry the loosened dry soil into the vacuum bag.
- **Airtight Container** – The bag, hopper or container that collects the soil should contain the soil – not spew it back out or release it into the air to settle on carpet and furniture or be inhaled by cleaning workers, building tenants and visitors.
- **Length of the Electrical Cord** – is of critical importance. The majority of the carpet dust that passes through the vacuum filters occur in the first 5 – 10 seconds when the vacuum is turned on. The longer the cord, the fewer times the vacuum will have to be stopped and started.

Extraction Equipment

- **The Wand** – A very important tool of extraction equipment – is a handheld tool that is connected to a water source that injects cleaning solution and a vacuum source to remove the emulsified soil solutions from the carpet.
- **Water Pump Pressure** – noted in pounds per square inch (psi)
- **Water Temperature** – An important part of the carpet cleaning process. Use caution in setting the temperature. Generally 150 degrees is recognized as the upper limit not to be exceeded on most carpets. It is important to note that water will cool as much as 30 degrees instantly as it is atomized and sprayed into the air at the jet tips on the head of the wand.
- **Vacuum Power** – Vacuum power performance is measured in two ways:
 - o The amount of air moved
 - o Water lift Power
- **Solution & Recovery Tanks** – Make sure these tank sizes fit your needs; otherwise you may spend more time filling and emptying your tank, then actual carpet cleaning.

Floor Machines

- **Speed of Machine** – This will depend on the use of the machine, 175 rpm for strips and scrubs, 1500 + rpm for burnishing.
- **Pad Size** – Make sure the size of the pad will fit your needs. The larger the pad the more area the unit will cover at one time. Smaller pad size may be needed for smaller rooms.
- **Type of Motor (DC or AC)** – A DC motor gives off more torque and cleans the roughest of floors.
- **Repair Center** – You should know where the nearest repair center is and if standard parts are readily available.

AutoScrubbers, Electric or Battery

- **Solution & Recovery Tanks** – Make sure these tank sizes fit your needs; otherwise you may spend more time filling and emptying your tank.
- **Length of the Electrical Cord (on electric)** – Be sure you have enough footage to meet your needs.
- **Battery** – What is the run time? Is the charger included in price?
- **Vacuum Motor Power** – Waterlift is greatly reduced when using a Battery Unit
- **Weight** – Will you be transporting the unit, or will it be stationed at one facility.
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- **Warranty** – What is covered, where would it be repaired

Pressure Washer

- **Industrial Unit** – If your usage is more than 2 hours a week you should buy industrial.
- **Pump Head** – Make sure the machine head has a brass head, non-industrial units are made out of aluminum and cannot stand up against the high water flow and pressure.
- **Pistons & Valves** – Make sure that the pistons and valves are made out of ceramic-coated steel, non-industrial units are plastic pistons and valves.
- **Seals** – Check for Teflon graphite rings not rubber seals.