

Tips from the top: How to maintain your flooring

Linda Miner
 Director, Section 11
 Valley Skating Center
 Donora, PA

We keep our floor in tip-top shape by using a damp, 6 ft. drag mop sprayed with diluted Roll-On cleaner every day. We spray the mop and do a swipe down and up the floor. We then lay the mop on the wall and vacuum the dust collected from the mop. Then we re-spray and repeat. This keeps our floor very clean and tight and our rink much less dusty. You will not have to scrub your floor as often either.

It is also important that the floor be done by someone off skates. You really cannot press the mop hard enough to get the dust and still skate. The person cleaning the floor should also press the mop with both hands to get a good press. I have been to many rinks and have watched the floor guards drag the floor in skates and with one hand on the mop. All they are doing is pushing the dust around!

We also have a long-handled scraper that we rest on the mop and

hold with the mop pole to scrape any gum or sticky things from the floor while we are dragging, but your help must be willing to watch the floor while doing this.

It takes us about 45 minutes to do our floor (85' x 185').

Becky Hundley
 Director, Section 3
 Incredi-Roll Skate & Family Fun
 Center
 West Allis, Wisc.

We pick a "Mystery Cleaning Spot" and ONLY tell the session managers where it is. We always pick an obscure place in the building that the staff NEVER cleans without being told. If an employee cleans the "Mystery Cleaning Spot" the first week, they get \$5 in WOW bucks to spend on anything in the rink, and we take and post a picture of that person "IN THE SPOT" and post it on the staff bulletin board. If no one finds it the first week, the pot grows \$5 a week

until it's found. Our staff has become a lot more thorough in their cleaning now.

Charlene Conway
 Vice President, Section 10
 Carousel Skating Center
 Fairhaven, Mass.

Rid-X Gum Remover, out of NY, works best for gum removal. Inexpensive.

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Flooring maintenance (cont'd from page 4)

Green alcohol also works very well. We do upkeep and routine maintenance daily so that nothing major goes wrong, hopefully! We also put dryer sheets in rental skates to help absorb moisture and odor!

Bill Hoefler
President, Section 10
Interskate 91 North
Hadley, Mass.

Ice placed in urinals, at the end of the day, helps eliminate odors and keep drains clean. Use of "foamy" soap in restrooms greatly reduces waste and a real cost savings will be noticed. Dispensers are far less likely

to drip and waste soap and customers see it as new and up-to-date.

Use of modern floor finishes in restrooms, designed for garage floors (such as Rust-o-leum), not only give a fresh and modern appearance but also save on long-term maintenance costs

Overuse of carpet-cleaning soaps can actually create a dirtier carpet. Soaps cling to and attract dirt. That's how they are able to clean the carpets. If they are not completely removed in the extraction process, along with the dirt, they continue to do their job of attracting dirt. Only now, the soap is in the carpet and attracting dirt to the carpet. Often times the types of things we clean don't require soap. A soda

spill can be spot cleaned with amply hot water. Use soap only when needed and less frequently.

Jeff Wymer
Secretary, Section 6
Jumpin' Jupiter Skate Center
Muskegon, Mich.

To get gum out of carpet, cover the gum with Goo Gone and wait about two minutes. Then use a scraper to scrape the gum from the carpet.

Michael Jacques
Director, Section 2
Roller King Roseville
Roseville, Calif.

I think I have tried it all for getting gum up off the carpet, and the fastest, cheapest way is a fork, hot water and a paper towel. For old gum, poke holes in the gum with the fork, then pour a little hot water on it and then with the fork rake it up. If it's fresh - no holes needed. I use the paper towel to put the gum in or if it's sticky to pick it up with. If there is any residue left I use a Citrus product called "Gum Solve" - just a little on a rag and wipe it up.

Cindy Anderson
Fun Quest Family Entertainment
Skate Center
Lynchburg, Va.

I recommend the use of "green alcohol" for gum removal. It is the cheapest (50 cents a bottle) and the safest product I have found. It does not dissolve the glue under the car-



pet. We have been using it for over 15 years. You must be sure it is GREEN, not regular alcohol.

We spray the gum with the green alcohol, let it set for a minute or two, and then use a tool called the "Gum Getter" to scrape it up. If it's old gum you may need to repeat more than once. The green alcohol dissolves the gumminess that causes it to stick to the carpet and the gum rolls off the carpet.

It works for getting gum out of hair and clothing, too (which sometimes will happen at the rink). When I contacted the company recently, they said they have a new item called the "Carpet Shark". This looks like it might work better; I have not tried it.

For product info, you can go online to: (Gum Getter) <http://www.sun-beltusa.com/gum-getter-bone-spatula.html>, (Pro's Choice Carpet Shark) <http://www.sun-beltusa.com/carpetshark.html>. The company name is Sun-Belt USA, a.k.a. Steamex of NC, Inc.