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Topic: **Concrete Flooring: Cleaning And Maintenance**

Target Audience: **Building Service Contractors**

Article Questions:

- **Why is concrete flooring popular today in commercial facilities?**
- ANSWER: concrete is increasingly viewed as a Green construction material and this is why it is becoming more and more popular. Yes, green house gasses are created during the production of concrete and it does use water and other natural resources. However, concrete is also viewed as a more sustainable building product when compared to many other types of flooring materials, many of which are made from petroleum.

Typically, concrete is made up largely of local materials, reducing the need to transport goods over long distances, it

offers the potential for an energy efficient design, and the structures it is built with have a long usable life.

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- **Please provide some benefits associated with concrete flooring and its superior qualities.**
- ANSWER: For the most part, concrete is very easy to maintain. In industrial settings, it may need to just be swept and mopped on a regular basis and will provide years of durability at minimal care. However, when installed in retail settings or non-industrial settings, as we are more often finding it installed today, concrete will need some additional care based on the desired look and finish. Options are to use sealants and finishes designed for concrete use. However, these can be environmentally unfriendly and defeat the Green benefits of concrete.
- Another option is for cleaning professionals to use specially designed metallic blades of different “grits.” View the grit similar to different colored pads with some pads designed for scrubbing while others are designed for polishing. Blades can range in grit from 100 grit blades to 2,000 grit blades, which produce a very finely finished floor.

In the past, these systems required the use of heavy machinery that could be difficult to use. New system can be used by a conventional buffer, making this a much easier and less expensive option.

- **Do building service contractors need specialized training to clean and maintain a concrete floor?**

ANSWER: If only minimal care is desired, then minimal floor care training is desired. If chemicals and finishes are used, contractors must know which products work best for use on concrete and how to use them. If a concrete polishing system is used, which uses no chemicals, the contractor must know how to use the system and the results to expect which each type of pad.

- **Do building service contractors need unique tools to clean and maintain concrete floors?**

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- ANSWER: The grit blades as discussed above.

- **Are there conditions or facility types where you do not recommend the use of concrete flooring?**

- ANSWER: Concrete can be installed just about anywhere today. It's look is accepted and considered fashionable.

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- What are some downsides, if any, to concrete flooring?

All answers provided by Rob Godlewski, Vice President of Marketing, Powr-Flite, a leading manufacturer of floor care equipment and other professional cleaning tools.