A woman in a black t-shirt and jeans is operating a large, grey, motorized floor refinishing machine in a modern lounge. The machine has a red top and a red brush. The lounge features a wooden wall with a decorative grid of circular frames, a brown sofa with green cushions, and a bar area with a coffee machine and glassware. The floor is made of light-colored tiles. The ceiling has recessed lighting and a curved design.

5 steps to refinishing floors faster

A guide to making the toughest job a whole lot easier, faster and more effective

Refinishing floors is a big, challenging job

It would be safe to say that no one enjoys refinishing floors. Traditional methods are time consuming and labor intensive, require harsh and dangerous stripping chemicals and neutralizers, potentially resulting in safety issues, including slip-and-fall incidents, with workers and building occupants. If chemicals are slopped onto your baseboards or adjacent areas, the process can actually have a negative impact on the appearance of your facility. And it's expensive, with the costs of materials, labor and safety precautions.

But there's another way to maintain the clean, beautiful and glossy floors. This guide will show you how.





Step 1: Get rid of your stripping chemicals, neutralizers and safety equipment

Sometimes, the first step towards improving a process is to take a step back and really look at what you're doing. Traditional methods of finish removal represent one of the most time- and labor-intensive activities for your maintenance staff.

- Traditional methods of floor finishing start with harsh and dangerous stripping chemicals
- Stripping a typical room can take an average of 1-2 hours, and can tie up 3 or even 4 workers
- Costs for stripping chemicals and neutralizers can add up fast
- The chemicals are hazardous and contribute to pollution when they're disposed of down your drains
- Safety for both your workers and building occupants is an issue, as the process can contribute to slip-and-fall accidents
- Stripping floors when your facilities are occupied is an added challenge

Step 2: Test drive an orbital scrubber dryer



Orbital floor scrubbing technologies are far more efficient and user-friendly for removing floor finish than traditional methods. In fact, they can strip floor finish using only water — revolutionizing the entire process of refinishing floors.

With orbital scrubber dryers, you can virtually eliminate one of the most time-consuming, hazardous, and labor-intensive aspects of maintenance, while actually improving your sustainability and decreasing your environmental footprint.

- 3 to 4-person scrub crews can be reduced to a single person
- Water and chemical usage can be cut by 50-70% from wet-stripping methods
- Trips to dump water are greatly reduced, boosting productivity
- Harsh and dangerous chemicals that pose a hazard to workers and contribute to your facility's negative environmental footprint are eliminated

Step 3: Let orbital technology do the work



Orbital scrubbing technology is completely different from conventional disc scrubbing technology. Engineered to operate much like a palm sander, orbital scrubbers are simply a far more efficient way to get floors clean — and remove old floor finish.

- Conventional disc machines with their round, dual pads scrub in a one-way direction across the floor, missing areas in between and at the edges of the pads
- Orbital scrubbers feature rectangular pads that scrub in many directions at once, delivering a far more consistent, efficient and uniform scrubbing action across the floor surface
- Orbital scrubber dryers also operate at far higher rpms than disc scrubbers — sometimes as high as 3500 orbits/minute or more — versus disc scrubbers that operate at just 175 to 300 rpms
- Orbital scrubber dryers with rectangular pads can reach into corners much easier, eliminating follow-up cleaning steps and further increasing the efficiency of their action

Step 4: Start stripping your floors



Removing old floor finish with an orbital scrubber dryer is as easy as putting on a specially designed stripping pad (usually a maroon pad or a green, grout-cleaning pad for kitchen and bathroom areas) and turning on the machine.

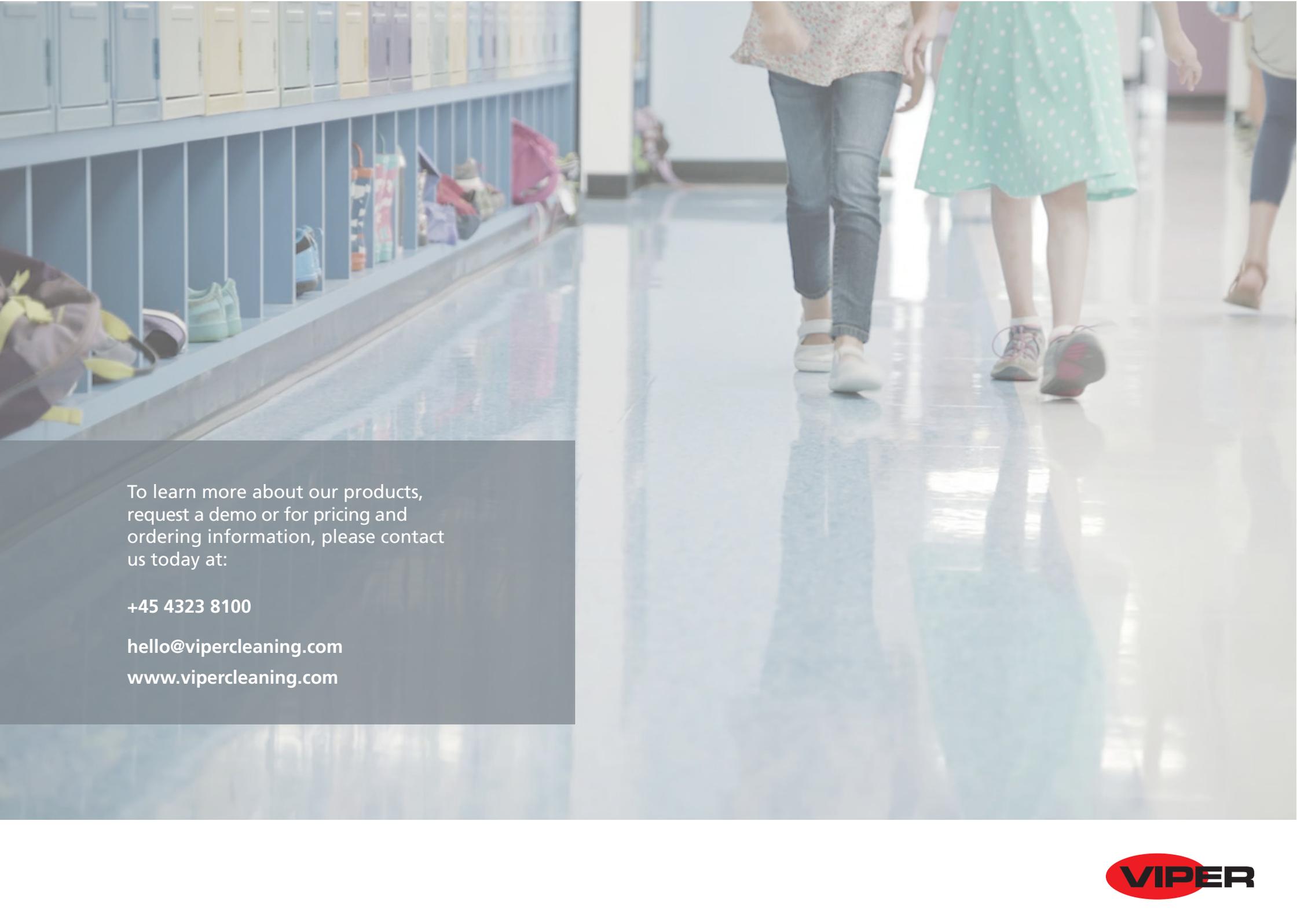
- Start by putting a red pad on your orbital scrubber dryer and then a maroon pad on top of that
- You can remove finish with water to keep dust down, or do a dry finish removal (which is more aggressive at removing finish)
- Clean up the dust by making several passes over the floor with a damp flat mop
- When the dust is completely removed and your floor is dry, you're ready to apply the new finish



Step 5: Apply the new finish

Once you've removed the old finish from your floors, applying new finish is simple.

- An orbital scrubber dryer is designed to remove up to 80% – 90% of existing finish in a single pass, which is usually enough to take off the accumulated dirt and create a base for your new finish
- If you need to completely remove the rest of the old finish, a light application of stripping chemical can now quickly remove it without going through the entire wet-stripping process
- If you're not doing a complete strip of the old finish, you can just apply the new finish immediately on the floor
- That's it! Step back and admire your newly finished floor!



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