



Bulletin Number: 1809

THE BOOST MACHINE BY CLARKE

To ensure the best look and the best adhesion of the Buckeye Reflections Wood Floor coatings, the *Procedure Manual* has several pages devoted to the process for preparing the floor. This includes two principal options. The first is wet screening using side-by-side floor machines followed by autoscrubber pick up and rinse. The second is dry screening using side-by-side floor machines followed by vacuuming.

There is a third option that can be done very successfully using an autoscrubber from Clarke Floor Machines called *The Boost Machine*, provided the following steps are strictly adhered to.

- Begin with Buckeye Reflections Procedure Manual. Follow all instructions with Assessment and Planning, the Jobsite Preparation Checklist, and especially the Jobsite Preparation.
- The Jobsite Preparation in the Procedure Manual recommends spending time a few days beforehand with putty knives removing gum, careful sweeping of the entire floor, and pre-scrubbing the entire gym if it is fairly dirty. Due to the nature of the oscillating motion characteristic of the *Boost Machine*, the pre-scrub of the entire gym is especially important. After doing a pre-scrub with Buckeye Tenacity diluted 3 to 4 ounces per gallon, evaluate the condition of the floor. If it appears to have high traffic areas that are still fairly soiled, plan on screening with 100 grit screens. If the floor looks pretty good, you can screen with 120 grit screens.
- The process of screening a gymnasium with a *Boost Machine* is different from the traditional pattern used with side-by-side floor machines. Instead of breaking up the floor into various rectangle boxes of 200 square feet each, the *Boost Machine* will travel the entire length of the gym (in the same direction of the boards), make a turnaround, and come back down the very same lane it went up. This “double pass, round trip” is helpful in generating a more even look.
- Once the machine has executed a complete “round trip”, the screen should be flipped over. Conduct the next pass down the floor with a moderate overlap of the previous pass, do the turnaround, come back the same lane you went up, and by now the screen is ready to be replaced with a new one. **If at any time a screen should become damaged by contact with a sharp edge or corner, it should be replaced immediately. Do not use a damaged screen!**

Buckeye International, Inc.

2700 Wagner Place • Maryland Heights • MO 63043 • USA • 314.291.1900
www.buckeyeinternational.com

- The solution tank of the *Boost Machine* should be filled with Buckeye Screen Clean Ready-To-Use Floor Prep Cleaner. In order to hold the sanding screen in place, use a white or red pad against the pad driver.
- To determine how many screens you will need, measure the width of the gym and divide by the width your *Boost Machine* will cover with each pass. This will not be the width of the machine (remember you will be overlapping about 6 inches) so subtract 6 inches from the width of your machine and convert into feet.
- Example: A 32-inch machine will screen about 26 inches with each pass (2.16 feet!). If the gym is 75 feet wide, you will need:
 - 75 feet divided by 2.16 feet per pass = 35 passes
 - 35 passes divided by 2 (one pass for each side of the screen) = 18 screens

Plan on having extra screens on hand.

- Fill the *Boost Machine* with Buckeye Screen Clean Ready-to-Use Floor Prep Cleaner. Do not dilute with water. Turn on the solution flow ‘medium to heavy’ and begin scrubbing with standard down pressure. **Do not use the extra heavy down pressure setting on the Boost Machine!** The oscillating motion of the scrubbing head is prone to leaving very tight figure 8 scratch marks in the floor. This is especially true when the heavy duty down pressure setting is used!
- Walk slowly with the machine, picking up as you go. When the entire floor has been screened, scrub/rinse the entire floor again using plain water. This can be done with the *Boost Machine* or with a second autoscrubber if you have one available equipped with a red or blue pad. To help minimize the possibility that the figure 8 scratch marks might show through, do the final scrub/rinse with a 3M Surface Prep Pad (SPP) on the autoscrubber or *Boost Machine*. Scrubbing perpendicular to the boards will also help minimize any scrub patterns left behind by the action of the *Boost Machine*.
- Finish the preparation of the floor in accordance with the tacking directions found in the Buckeye Procedures Manual

The Buckeye Procedures Manual does not promote this method of preparing a sports floor for recoating with Buckeye Reflections Wood Coatings for three principal reasons. The first is the concern that the tight figure 8 scratch marks will show through after the coating has been applied. This can be minimized by avoiding the “heavy duty” pad pressure setting on *Boost Machine*, but it may still be visible over painted areas.

The second concern is the possibility that the screens won’t get flipped over and replaced often enough. For most people who work with autoscrubbers, it just isn’t natural for them to stop over and over and make pad adjustments. This must not be allowed to happen on a wood sports floor in order to achieve excellent adhesion of whatever coating is applied.

The third concern is the possibility that the operator of the *Boost Machine* will walk too fast. It isn't so easy to discipline yourself to go very slowly with autoscrubbers. It is for these reasons that Buckeye International has not actively promoted the use of the *Boost Machine* for the preparation of wood floors. It can be done successfully, but it requires the operators to be aware of these concerns.

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