

Methods of Polishing and Restoration

Sanding with diamond abrasives discs is the most effective polishing method and is also the only choice for restoration. This method involves grinding the floor down with commercial grade diamond abrasive discs. Successively finer discs are used to bring out a mirror like shine.

Polishing powders can also give very effective results. In this method polishing powder is applied with a buffing machine to bring out a mirror like shine. This is a good regular maintenance choice.

Coatings like wax and urethane are used as quick fixes and are more of a problem than a solution. These coatings prevent the stone from "breathing" and may yellow light colored stones, and the chemicals used for stripping the coatings off can damage the floor. These finishes are no answer to imperfections in a stone floor and in the long run may only exacerbate problems. The best approach is to not use coatings at all.

Here are suggestions for floor refinishing:

1. All floors have lippage which must be removed.
2. All steps must be followed in an orderly process; no step should be skipped.
3. No diamond grit may be eliminated because diamonds can only be used as part of a complete series.
4. Use enough water, and make sure the delivery tubes are clear and flowing.
5. Do not swing the floor machine; learn to move it "gracefully."

Procedures: Honing & Polishing	Discs required	Time required to polish 11 sq ft.
#1 (30-50 grit)	6	Varies by condition
#2 (120-220 grit)	6	Varies by condition
#3 (400-800 grit)	6	2 - 3 minutes
#4 (1000-1800 grit)	6	2 - 3 minutes
#5 (3500 grit)	6	2 - 3 minutes

Procedures: Lippage Removal	Discs required	Time required to polish 11 sq ft.
#50 grit (metal bond))	6	Varies by condition
#00 50 grit equivalent)	6	Varies by condition
#0 (100 grit equivalent)	6	2 - 3 minutes



Marble Polishing Discs



Lippage Removal Discs

What is the best way to remove lippage?

The biggest problem with lippage is its inconsistency. It can be severe on some parts of the floor and practically nonexistent in other parts. It is necessary to address the severity of the lippage before any grinding is done. Lippage 1/8 of an inch or higher should be carefully knocked off with a grinder followed by the Lippage Removal discs. Lippage less than 1/8 of an inch can be removed with the Lippage Removal discs starting at 50 grit for granite or the 100 grit for marble.

How do I know which disc to start with?

Floor polishing is a very orderly process. Progress is made easy if you follow the complete series of discs. Any lippage should be removed first and the floor made flat. Successful polishing can not be accomplished unless the floor is completely flat. If the floor was previously reground, you should do a test patch to evaluate the starting point. You should always perform a test prior to starting the project.

Why do we need to use water?

The discs require water to keep them lubricated and cool. If the discs can't be run clean and cool, they will likely be destroyed in a short time frame.

The V-Max Floor Machine comes equipped with a 5 gallon solution tank and two additional water dispensers for exact water control and placement. One is for the 5 gallon solution tank which feeds through the center of the pad driver and the other for intermittent water feed. The solution tank will hold approximately 5 gallons. If the water valve is opened, the water will flow for approximately 10-15 minutes with out replenishment. This is ideal for grinding and polishing stages. As the final polishing stage requires little water, the intermittent valve (plunger type valve) is used to control the amount of water.

If we have a stained floor can we grind it out?

Before attempting to remove the stain, determine where the problem came from. Some stains may be reoccurring such as water damage from a fountain or leaky pipe. Before you can eliminate that type of problem you have to control the source of the problem first.

If the problem is maintenance related such as grease spots, removal of the stain might be easier if you use a poultice product before attempting to use abrasives. Many stains can penetrate so deep that grinding may not be the best solution to the problem. Try a high quality line of poultice stain remover for best results.

If any lippage or high/low areas are noticeable, do not attempt to polish the floor with the Resin Discs. First use the Lippage Removal Discs to grind the floor totally flat.