



**Question: What is the best way to use an autoscrubber to care for a newly finished gym floor?**

**Answer:**

When considering the use of an autoscrubber to maintain a wood sports floor, several items should be reviewed prior to cleaning the floor.

- ✓ Be sure the use of an autoscrubber does not void any expressed, written or implied warranties for the floor.
- ✓ Use the least aggressive pad for scrubbing the floor to maintain the appearance of the finish. **White pads are preferable.**
- ✓ Do not use automatic scrubbers on newly installed floors or newly sanded gyms until sufficient finish has been applied to the gym to prevent moisture from seeping under the floor. Usually, 1-3 years after installation or sanding will provide enough protection through the annual recoating process to protect the wood floor from potential damage.
- ✓ Make sure the automatic scrubber is in good working order and the pickup vacuum and squeegees are in good condition.
- ✓ Do not over-scrub the floor by using too much cleaner, too aggressive of a pad selection or scrub too frequently.
- ✓ Make sure the scrubber does not exceed the weight loading limits of the floor system.

We have had success utilizing autoscrubbers to clean gymnasium floors for many years. A walk-behind autoscrubber or smaller micro-riders not only do an excellent job of cleaning the floor, but are relatively effortless to operate compared to traditional cleaning methods. *Autoscrubbers should only be used to clean wood floors if they are in good working order with good operating squeegees, there are sufficient layers of finish present, and no excessive gaps are present between the individual boards.*