

8 key terms to know in the scrubbing machines field



1 Type of dirt

Free dirt: when it does not adhere to the surface and is fine or coarse. Usually a sweeper is required to eliminate it;

Adherent dirt: that remains anchored to the floor surface. It can be: dry, greasy, organic or inorganic dirt. Floor scrubbers are used in the presence of this type of dirt;

Free and adherent dirt: that involves the use of a sweeping-scrubbing machine and a possible dirt removal before using the floor scrubbing machine.

2 Type of intervention

Maintenance cleaning: it is a frequent operation that involves washing and drying in a single pass on surfaces with light dirt. For this type of cleaning often detergents are not required.

Deep cleaning: it is a washing and drying operation in a single pass of surfaces with heavy dirt. In this case the use of the detergent is always required, and sometimes specific accessories are needed.

3 Washable and total surface

A fundamental evaluation to calculate the effective m² to be washed with the floor scrubber. Very often reference is made to the total surface but the space to be cleaned is smaller (washable surface).

4 Productivity rate

The **theoretical productivity** rate is calculated considering the floor scrubber cleaning width multiplied by the maximum forward speed. The result is expressed in sqm/h. While for the **practical productivity** rate other factors must be taken into consideration, such as tanks loading and unloading times, whether the environment is cluttered or not, floor type, etc. If scrubber driers equipped with batteries are used, their autonomy must be considered.

5 Detergent solution

It is the liquid used for cleaning and it is composed of water and a chemical agent. Particular attention must be paid to choosing the chemical as it must be suitable for the floor and dirt type. Furthermore, it must be suitable for use on floor scrubbers and therefore with retarded foam.

6 Detergent solution consumption

It is the quantity of detergent solution used to clean 1 sqm.

The scrubbing machines equipped with on-board dosing system allow the adjustment of the dosage, reducing waste and improving results.

There are also scrubbing machines equipped with an on-board recycling system that drastically reduces the consumption of the detergent solution.

7 Cleaning methods

Direct: includes the distribution of the solution, the mechanical action of the brushes and the suction.

Indirect: the first steps include the distribution of the solution and the use of the brushes, this grants more action time to the detergent. Subsequently the operation is repeated with the suction activated.

8 Sinner's circle

These are the four determining factors defined by Herbert Sinner to obtain an ideal detergency:

Chemical action

Mechanical action

Temperature

Action time

These factors are present in every cleaning operation. In the specific case of scrubber-driers they involve the detergent for the chemical action, the force exerted by the brushes for the mechanical action, the possibility of using hot water (MAX 50° C) in the tank solution for the temperature and, finally, the regulation of the working speed for the time of action.

Sinner points out that if one of the four factors is lacking, the other three must be reinforced.

In fact, only the balanced combination of these elements (assessed by examining the surface and the type and degree of dirt) will allow to obtain the optimal result.

