

## Anti-Slip Floor Coatings

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The janitorial supply industry has seen a dramatic increase in the number of anti-slip coatings and cleaners being marketed. This increase is directly attributable to liability concerns surrounding slip and falls. This has opened the door for companies with coating products that contain particles, sand-like compounds, to try to find a place in the market.

Do these products work any differently than standard floor finishes, cleaners and restorers at increasing slip resistance? Do they warrant their high price tags? Let's examine them closely to find the answers. There are two distinct classes of products that exist. The first is floor finish with **visible** sand-like particles, about 40 to 80 microns in size. The second is floor finish with **microscopic** particles, about 1 to 3 microns in size.

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### Coatings With Visible Particulate - 40-80 microns

While our lab found that these coatings do increase the slip resistance of a surface by up to 40%, they also found the products very difficult to apply and maintain, making them almost unusable under most circumstances. Problems exhibited include:

**Difficult to Apply:** Application with a roller is recommended. A mop and bucket application causes most of the particles to fall out before they get to the floor.

**Cleaning is Difficult:** Cleaning with a mop is very difficult because the mop fibers are readily torn by the particles. The same is true for autoscrubbers equipped with cleaning pads. This makes cleaning almost impossible. Scrubbers equipped with brushes produce acceptable results.

**Buffing is Not Recommended:** Burnishing eliminates any gain in slip resistance since it removes the particulate material and smooths the floor.

*“These products perform no better, and in some cases, much worse than standard floor finish.”*

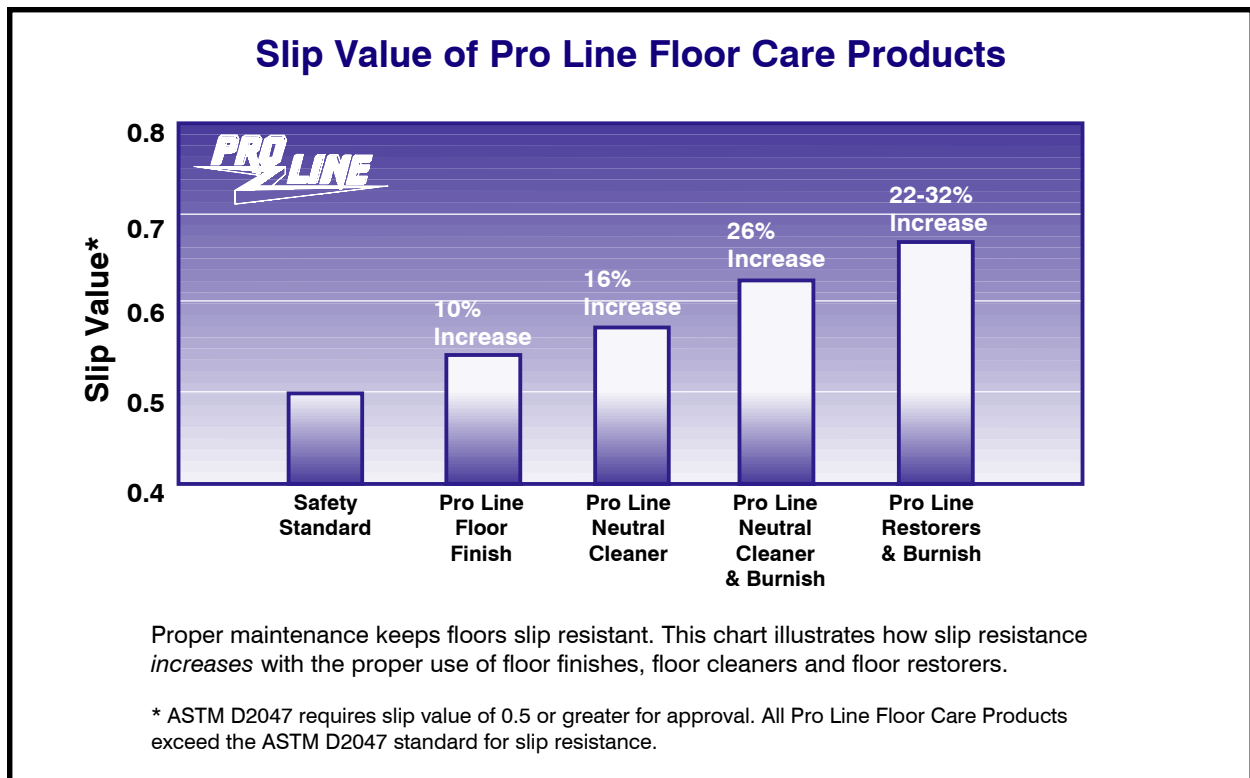
Coating Attracts Dirt: Floors with these coatings attract dirt rapidly and are next to impossible to keep clean.  
Low Gloss: Gloss is severely affected since it is a function of smoothness and cleanliness of a surface.  
Frequently Requires Strip/Recoat: Foot traffic reduces the effectiveness of the particle through abrasion. Frequent stripping and reapplication is necessary to maintain the elevated slip resistance.

### **Coatings with Invisible Particulate - 1-3 microns**

The microscopic particles did not show any increase in slip resistance. In fact, one of the products tested barely passed the James Machine standard, coming in at 0.5. Gloss is reduced, although not as much when compared to large particle products.

As can be seen from extensive testing, these products perform no better, and in some cases, much worse than standard floor finish but the pricing is usually much higher. In fact, most Pro Line floor finishes are more slip resistant according to the James Machine test method. Pro Line floor finishes can be used with confidence as each product has on it's label:

"This finish meets ASTM Method D2047-82 for slip resistance."



## Engine Choices - What to Choose From

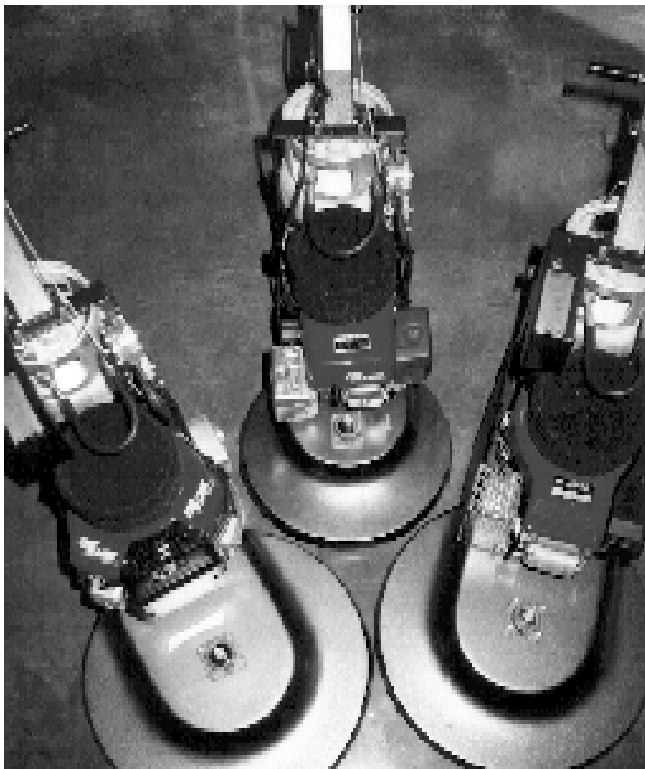
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As many have already noticed, Kohler is no longer allowing their engines to be used on Propane Floor Buffers. Kohler has made that decision with an emphatic NO! They will continue to provide service parts and warranty on existing engines. The propane buffer market was only a small part of Kohler's business when it came to the Command engine line so parts will continue to be available for years to come.

*“These engines are ruggedly built with overhead valves, full pressure lubrication, cast iron cylinder sleeves and on some models, an oil filter.”*

Now your options are open for new engines! Pro Line is offering the Honda 11hp and higher horsepower Honda engines will be arriving soon. Also added to our lineup is the Briggs & Stratton Vanguard Series engines.

Unlike the Briggs & Stratton engine on your lawn mower these engines are ruggedly built with overhead valves, full pressure lubrication, cast iron cylinder sleeves and on some models, an oil filter. We are offering the 16 horsepower single cylinder for those who want power at a low price and the 16 horsepower V-Twin for those who want power as well as smooth, quiet operation. Unlike some engines on the market that boast 20 horsepower but only deliver 13-14 horsepower, these engines really deliver.



The standard Vanguard Buffers come with battery start. In the past many have been reluctant to use battery start buffers because of maintenance on the battery. However we have developed a system that will prove both convenient and reliable. We have encased a sealed *maintenance free* battery in a tamper-proof enclosure. No need to check the water or worry about leaks. Just reliable starts... without looking for an outlet. All Vanguard engines have a charging system that will keep the battery fully charged at all times. Check out the new Pro Line series featuring OHV Vanguard Engines!

Address Correction Requested

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## Classified Ads

<b>Buffer - 21"</b> - Honda GXV400, Rebuilt with 20 hours \$400 obo	<b>Buffer - 27" Pro Buff</b> - 11hp Honda 70 hrs on engine, Like new, Runs great \$1200
<b>Buffer - 18" Advance</b> \$150 obo	<b>Buffer - 21"</b> - 11hp Honda \$700
<b>Buffer - 15" Hild</b> \$75 obo (206) 335-5193 Leslie/Circus Janitorial	(509) 697-8350 Commercial Janitor Service
<b>Buffer - 19" NSS</b> 175-350 rpm Dual Speed Electric \$500 Negotiable (206) 562-9679 Dan Walker	<b>26" Advance</b> Autoscrubber like new \$2500 <b>30" American Lincoln</b> Scrubber \$1800 <b>32" Hako</b> Scrubber \$3200 <b>27" Pioneer Eclipse</b> Propane Buffer \$1300 <b>21" Pro Buff</b> Propane Buffer \$1200 <b>17" Electric</b> Swing Machine \$390 Call Chuck Babb at Cascade Janitorial (206)355-1295 days 338-7133 pager
<b>Scrubber - 26" Clarke</b> \$1000 <b>Buffers - 2 Pro Buff</b> \$1400 Total Package \$2000 Call (503)784-3121	<b>Propane Buffer 27"</b> - Excellent Cond. \$1200 <b>Scrubber - Clarke TB24</b> - New Batt. \$1200 (360) 377-5160 John Raymor / Ultra Cleaning