

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING A FLOOR SCRUBBER

It can be daunting and difficult to know where to start when purchasing a floor scrubber for your business or work environment. At CCE we have over a decade of experience with a wide range of high-quality floor scrubbing machines – from small compact models to larger ride-ons for vast areas for all types of industries including hospitals, hotels, aged care, leisure centre, mining, education, factories, warehouses, food industry, dental surgeries, veterinarian clinics & any type of industry.

Factors to consider when choosing the right floor scrubber

When choosing the equipment you are going to use to clean and maintain your floor surface, there are a number of factors which you should carefully consider before making a purchase. These include, but are not limited to the following,

- **Floor Area** The size of the floor area to be cleaned. Large areas tend to be better suited to larger battery powered walk behind or ride machines (PICTURE). Smaller areas such as kitchens, ensuite bathrooms etc tend to be better served by smaller corded machinery. (PICTURE)
- **Type of Surface** The type of floor surface to be cleaned. Smooth floor surfaces such as Terrazzo, polished Concrete, and new generation vinyl, have better results when they are cleaned with a disc machine (PICTURE), either with a brush or pad. Uneven or “profiled” floors tend to come up much better when cleaned with a cylindrical brush (PICTURE) floor scrubber.
- **Frequency of Cleaning** Consider the interval between cleans. If the surface to be maintained requires daily cleaning with a machine for several hours per day, several times a week, then you will probably need the most robust machine you can purchase. Choose a brand with a proven track record in producing machinery that continues to work day after day, and with a little TLC will still be working for you after 5 or 10 years with very down time. We recommend both Tennant and Comac, as the two most robust brands in the market.
- **Storage & Portability** The place where the machine will be stored. This fundamental issue is often overlooked when purchasing new equipment. If the machine is going to stay onsite permanently, is there a room big enough to store the machine securely? Is the door wide enough for it to fit? Is there access to power (to charge the batteries)? Is there access to water and drainage (to fill and empty the water tanks)?
- **Access within the site** Are there parts of the site (such as different levels), which need to be accessed via a lift? If so, will the machine you choose fit inside the lift, or through narrow openings such as doorways?
- **Budget** Finally, consider your budget. Some customers forget that in the world of cleaning, the labour cost is by far and away the biggest cost in your operation. Machinery is usually less than 10% of the cost of your operations. Choose a machine which will save you time, and therefore Labour. Which will get the job done quickly and efficiently, without wasting (Labour) time. It is often more cost effective to invest in a quality product which will last 5-10 years, rather than something cheap that will fall apart just after the manufacturer’s warranty expires.
- **Noise Level**

Types of Floor Scrubbers

There are many different types of floor scrubbing machines, these include the following,

Single Disc Floor Scrubber



These machines are traditionally a basic corded machine, with a high torque motor producing a low-speed scrub head, which can either hold a brush or cleaning pad. These machines can come with or without a clean water tank, but do not usually come with a suction system or recovery tank to pick up the slurry. A wet vacuum or other method is often needed to complete the cleaning process.

Dual Cylindrical Electric Floor Scrubber

These machines have two cylindrical brushes, which in the case of the Duplex machine, contra rotate. This means that the brushes spin in an opposite direction to each other ensuring that as they pass over a surface, they clean it thoroughly on all sides. These machines are ideal for cleaning a variety of different floor surfaces, by virtue of having height adjustable brushes, which can be set on different levels for carpet, tiles, vinyl, concrete etc.



Scrubber Dryer – Ride-On



These machines do all of the above, but allow the operator to control the machine by either sitting or standing on the machine during operation. Typically, these machines have much larger tanks than other scrubber dryers and are used to clean large areas of floor, such as shopping centres, airports, hospitals, leisure centres etc

Scrubber Dryer – Walk Behind

These machines will scrub and dry your floors whilst being controlled by an operator who “walks behind” the machine. These machines are usually battery powered, but corded (electric) machines are also available. They have a clean water tank which releases water onto a scrub head, which could have either a disc cleaning pad or brush, or a cylindrical type brush. As brush or pad rotates it scrubs the floor with the aid of the water solution. As the machine drives forward, the dirty water is collected by a squeegee assembly at the back of the machine and returned to a recovery tank. These machines can come with a traction motor to enable the machine to be self-propelled therefore requiring little effort to operate and reducing operator fatigue, or come with pad assist, where the rotating motion of the scrub head enables the operator to push the machine more easily.



Best Brands of Floor Scrubbers

We have a wide range of floor scrubbers from a number of the world’s leading manufacturers of cleaning equipment, including Tennant, Comac, Karcher, Numatic, and Duplex. Such a wide range of machinery enables us to recommend the most appropriate machine for your cleaning task, whether it is for residential, commercial or industrial cleaning purposes.

Tennant – USA

Comac – Italy

Karcher – Germany

Duplex – Italy

At Commercial Cleaning Equipment we only offer high quality floor scrubbing machines from these world-renowned. All these suppliers have been manufacturing floor scrubbers for decades and have made significant progress with technological advancements.

All of the above brands have been established for at least 25 years, and in some cases much longer, and during this time they have become global market leaders. We have many examples of floor scrubbers from these manufacturers that are over 10 years old and still going strong!

When considering your purchase of a floor scrubber look at the manufacturers who provide the best after sales service including the warranty provisions, availability and ongoing supply of spare parts, training and having suitably qualified technicians.

Features to look out for:

- **Water usage** - water is becoming more and more precious in our current environment. Look for machines which clean effectively but with low water usage. The Duplex 340 and 420 with steam are great examples of this, cleaning large areas with very little water consumption.
- **Energy efficient machines** – there are many machines which can be operated in “Eco Mode”, which lowers the power consumed by the scrub head and vacuum systems, making them quieter and ensuring that the battery lasts longer, enabling more work to be undertaken after a single charge cycle.
- **Ease of use** – Is the machine easy to use? It is no good buying a cheap machine if the operator can not remove the brush or pad holder from the scrub head easily. The Comac Antea and Tennant T300 both have simple and quick methods of removing the wearing parts from the scrub head, so that they can be cleaned at the conclusion of the job.
- **Scrub head and tank size.** Put quite simply, the bigger the machine, the quicker the job will get done. A larger machine will often clean an area in half of the time it takes a smaller machine to do the same task. However, bigger is not always better. Always consider the nature of the terrain to be cleaned. Smaller machines are often better in areas where there are obstacles which need to be negotiated through, such as doorways, work benches etc
- **What brushes or cleaning pads are you going to use?** Typically, pads are better for smooth floors. They are relatively inexpensive to replace. If you want to use cleaning pads, then you need to look at a disc machine. Brushes (either disc or cylindrical) are often better on profiled (non-smooth) floors. Different types and sizes of squeegee blades are also available. If the machine is being used to clean an outdoor surface, then hard-wearing blades will be needed. If cleaning in a kitchen or workshop environment where grease and oil are present then many manufacturers such as Comac, produce oil resistant squeegee blades for this kind of work.
- **After sales support & maintenance** – The purchase is only the initial stage in the life cycle of a floor scrubbing machine. If you to ensure that your machine is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations, the choose a dealer who has a service and repair department, staffed by trained technicians, who can identify any faults which may occur and fix them in a timely fashion. We recommend an annual service by a qualified technician.

Now you are armed with the information you need to choose the right machine for your needs, it is time to throw away the old mop and bucket and talk to one of friendly team about a new floor scrubber.

**Contact Commercial Cleaning Equipment on 08 9249 8744
for a FREE Consultation and Demonstration at your workplace.**

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Our Brands:



KÄRCHER

