



# Floor Buffer Safety



West Virginia University  
Environmental Health and Safety

## Pre-Use Activities

- Review and understand information provided in the floor buffer operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Inspect the floor buffer for damage or disrepair. Inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.
- If a floor buffer fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the buffer from service by attaching a red tag that states "OUT OF SERVICE". Complete red tag with appropriate information.

## Operating Precautions

- Insert floor buffer plug into receptacles with similar prong or blade patterns.
- Only use floor cleaners and waxes that are designed for floor buffer application.
- Use floor buffer cleaners and waxes according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Never use a floor buffer with a damaged electrical cord or plug.
- Keep both hands on the handles when operating a floor buffer.
- Do not run the floor buffer over electrical cords, door stops, or other obstructions.
- Unplug an unattended floor buffer.
- Do not yank on the electrical cord to disconnect a floor buffer. Grip the plug when disconnecting a floor buffer.
- Unplug the floor buffer before changing the buffing pad or cleaning block.
- Never try to move a floor buffer by pulling on the electrical cord.
- Carefully operate a floor buffer across changes in floor surface texture to prevent strong pulling motions and loss of control of the buffer.
- Cleaning solutions used with a floor buffer may leave wet floor surfaces. Post signs warning of wet floors near the area being cleaned.
- Use proper techniques to prevent back strain when lifting or moving a floor buffer.
- Unplug the floor buffer before performing maintenance or repairs.
- **NEVER** use propane powered buffers in enclosed areas.

