

## The shift to chemical-free cleaning in healthcare strengthens

The importance of infection prevention and control in healthcare settings remains a topic of contention about whether it's possible to achieve the same level of hygienic clean without using chemicals. Murray McDonald, director of Duplex – a healthcare cleaning equipment company – not only believes it's achievable, but that it should be the preferred method of cleaning.

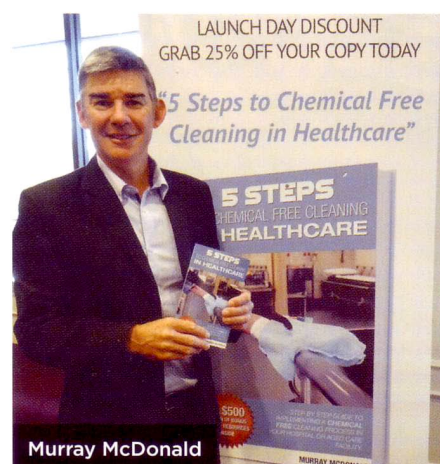
McDonald launched his book, *'5 Steps to Chemical Free Cleaning in Healthcare'* at the Institute of Hospitality in Healthcare's (IHHC) annual conference in Melbourne, held in October last year. The book acts as a step-by-step guide in order to help hospitals and aged care facilities make the transition to chemical free cleaning.

"Over the last 15 years, there has been research and pilots conducted on the use of Chemical-free cleaning in healthcare, both locally and overseas, that prove its infection control qualities, cost savings and OH&S benefits," McDonald said.

"The feedback we have received from the healthcare industry is that they are well aware of chemical-free benefits and research, but are unsure about how to get their staff to transition from the mindset of the mop and bucket.

"I wrote this book to help infection control coordinators, environmental services managers and directors of nursing staff implement a streamlined chemical-free cleaning process, including the five keys steps; identification, assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation," McDonald explained.

[www.duplex5steps.com](http://www.duplex5steps.com)



## 'Encap' is a productive and profitable system

By Mike Tarvin\*

Encapsulation cleaning is an interim carpet cleaning method that is one of the Carpet and Rug Institute's (CRI) 'Five Ingredients for Great Looking Carpets'. Interim carpet cleaning can be used if regular vacuuming isn't doing enough. The purpose of interim carpet cleaning is to clean the carpet with minimal water, chemicals, and labour.

The next step after interim cleaning is restorative cleaning, which entails high labour, is costly, and has a lengthy carpet drying time. Other interim carpet cleaning methods include absorbent compound, bonnet, and dry foam shampoo.

The Five Ingredients for Great Looking Carpets are soil containment; vacuuming; spot and stain removal; interim cleaning; and restorative cleaning.

### How does encapsulation cleaning work?

The chemistry behind encapsulation is its crystalline polymeric formulation. The encapsulation formula utilises polymers that surround soils and dirt on carpet fibres. These encapsulated contaminants then crystallise and become brittle, making them easy to vacuum and leaving the carpet free of contaminants.

Contaminant free carpet helps prevent re-soiling, allowing carpet to stay clean longer, improving its appearance, lengthening the time between cleaning, and prolonging the carpet's life.

### What makes encapsulation interesting for cleaning professionals?

#### Low moisture

Encapsulation carpet cleaning is an interim, low-moisture carpet cleaning method. Low-moisture systems, such as bonnet and encapsulation cleaning, have a significantly faster drying time compared to deep cleaning methods. While encapsulation does not eliminate deep cleaning methods like hot-water extraction, it can prolong the cycle for which deep cleaning of carpet is required. Odour eliminating chemicals, such as hydrogen peroxide, can also be designed into an encapsulation formula, leaving the carpet smelling fresh and clean.

#### Quick and easy to learn

The training and equipment required for encapsulation cleaning is minimal. A cleaner would first pre-vacuum the carpet, apply the encapsulation product, and then agitate the surface with a machine equipped with a carpet brush. After allowing a dry time of 30 to 60 minutes, the encapsulated soil and detergents are removed by vacuuming.

The procedures below are what cleaners would actually perform with encapsulation cleaning.

1. Pre-vacuum carpet to help remove loose soils.
2. Apply the encapsulation product.
3. Allow 2 to 5 minutes (depending on the product) for the solution to loosen soil.
4. Agitate the surface with a machine equipped with a carpet brush. A machine with counter rotating (black) nylon brushes is preferred. A conventional floor machine equipped with a carpet brush or spin bonnet can also be used.
5. Allow 30 to 60 minutes (depending on the product) for the carpet to dry. An air mover can be used to speed up the drying process. Once the carpet is completely dry, it can be returned back to service.

#### Cost Savings

Encapsulation cleaning is highly profitable because it has the ability to cover large surface areas quickly with minimal downtime. For instance, 15 litres of Multi-Clean's encapsulation ECO2 diluted can cover up to 4,000 sq m of carpet.

[www.multi-clean.com](http://www.multi-clean.com); [www.ibssales.com.au](http://www.ibssales.com.au)