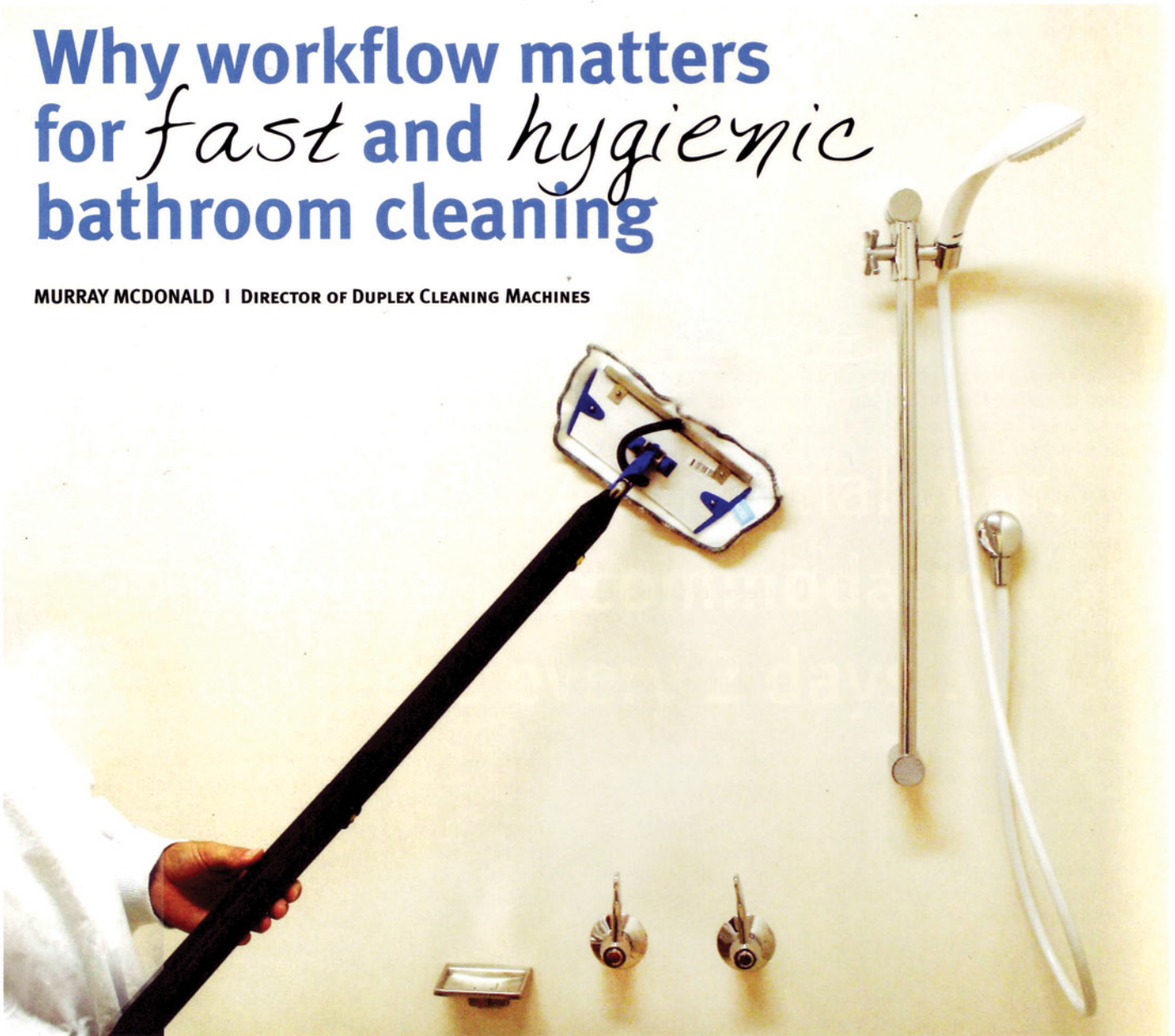




Why workflow matters for *fast and hygienic* bathroom cleaning

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Bathroom cleaning is a mandatory cleaning task for all accommodation facilities. Whether it be accommodation owners, contract cleaners or housekeeping staff that carry out the task, each professional has their own products and processes in which they follow.

Although processes may differ, the common goal amongst all accommodation bathroom cleaning needs is the desire to complete the job in the most time effective yet hygienic way possible. This is where a consistent and industry standard workflow is mandatory to achieving this objective.

Below is an overview of an industry standard workflow that takes into account pre-workflow, workflow process and post-workflow activities.

PRE-WORKFLOW

The products you use are the first point of consideration before embarking on your bathroom cleaning workflow. Chemicals, rags, mops and buckets will hinder your workflow, no matter how consistent and streamlined it is.

The reason for this is that chemical use in the accommodation industry, much like the healthcare sector, is now commonly seen as an outdated method. This is mainly due to allergy concerns for

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both guests and staff, and the latest research and industry standards that validate chemical-free cleaning solutions.

The use of high temperature steam solutions and the use of microfibre instead of regular cloths are some of the bathroom cleaning alternatives that can be used to ensure a fast and hygienic bathroom cleaning process.

Also, before you embark on implementing your workflow, it's important to clearly "mark" the areas that need to be cleaned. This is so you can identify post-clean whether any areas have been missed. This can be done using an invisible marker. An invisible marker can't be seen to the naked eye, and can only be seen when illuminated using the right torch.

WORKFLOW

The four key areas in a bathroom clean are;

- » Walls and floors (including tile and grout)
- » Fittings (including basin, taps, drains etc)
- » Showers
- » Toilets

When cleaning each of these areas, the rule of thumb is **start with the cleanest areas and finish with the dirtiest areas**. For example, start with basins or light switches and finish with toilets. Ensure you complete this workflow in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction.

An example of such a workflow can be seen below using steam vapour and microfibre.

- » Start with light switches and the door knob area. This can be achieved by using a steam lance to disinfect the area, and wiping down the surfaces with a microfibre cloth
- » Continue in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction to the basin. Steam clean taps, basins and drains.
- » Move onto the shower, including its walls, floors and grout. Steam surfaces starting from the top and make your way down.
- » Finish with the toilet area. Using steam, disinfect and detail clean water chamber, seat, rim and bowl.

POST-WORKFLOW

Once you have completed your bathroom clean using a consistent workflow, it's time to make sure that no corners have been cut and no areas have gone unnoticed.

One way to determine this is by conducting a post audit of your bathroom clean. As I mentioned in the pre-workflow section, it's important to have marked areas that need to be cleaned using an invisible marker.

Simply go to all areas you have pre-marked and illuminate these areas. If the marks are no longer present then the cleaning has been carried out according to schedule. If marks are present, areas may have been missed due to human error or the workflow wasn't carried out in the correct order.

Murray McDonald is Director of Duplex Cleaning Machines and has over 20 years experience in improving accommodation cleaning standards through chemical free solutions. Visit www.duplexcleaning.com.au