



March 28, 2008

**To:** 3M Distributors and End-User Customers

**Subject:** 3M™ Floor Pads and Product Stewardship

3M has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to protecting health, safety and the environment. Long before the concept of sustainability came to the forefront of corporate consciousness, 3M served as a leader in reducing its impact on the environment, while conserving resources through its breakthrough **Pollution Prevention Pays (3P)** program. What began as a pioneering concept over 30 years ago continues today because **sustainability is integral to 3M's values.**

3M sustainability also includes developing new products through a Life Cycle Management (LCM) process. LCM includes a comprehensive review of a product's potential health, safety, environmental and regulatory impact throughout its lifetime. The LCM process is a cradle-to-grave approach to product development. It includes raw material acquisition, transportation, manufacturing, use and disposal. 3M technical experts in toxicology, industrial hygiene, environmental engineering, product stewardship and product safety all participate in the LCM process. Their guidance in the product development process helps ensure safe, environmentally preferable, functional solutions are delivered to our customers.

In 2008, 3M continues to maintain standards of manufacturing excellence, quality products, customer service and environmental leadership. 3M has internal policies designed to grow and protect our business, customers, and the environment.

**3M™ Floor Pad Story:**

3M invented and patented the first synthetic, non-woven floor pad back in 1958. For 50 years, the concept of sustainability has been incorporated into the design of each 3M™ Floor Pad.

- ❖ **3M™ Floor Pads have been engineered for high performance and durability.** Uniform distribution of mineral abrasives throughout the pad assures superior performance and long, useful life. Individually separated and coated fibers help produce better, more consistent results. The right amount of aggressiveness for every type of stripping, scrubbing, cleaning and burnishing jobs help lead to postponing the heavy, chemical and labor intensive work required to strip and recoat flooring.
- ❖ **3M™ Floor Pads are designed to be washable and reusable.** Performance data on 3M floor pads shows they last longer and outperform other leading brands of floor pads. Longer life, washability and reusability help lead to postponing end of life disposal into landfills.
- ❖ **3M™ Floor Pads have significant mark removal efficiency over competitive pads.** Greater mark removal efficiency helps lead to less energy usage from burnishing equipment and the added benefit of reduced labor. For example, 3M™ Eraser™ Burnish Pad 3600 generates less dust during burnishing (more than 50% less than competitive floor pads). Less dust from floor maintenance programs helps contribute to improved indoor air quality.
- ❖ **3M has developed efficient packaging for 3M Floor Pads.** As part of environmental stewardship in packaging, 3M floor pad packaging consists of between 75-100% recycled material and the packaging is 100% recyclable. 3M packaging engineers have also worked to keep the packaging material as light as possible thus reducing overall product packaging.

- ❖ **3M Floor Pads clean and polish stone flooring without the use of coatings.**  
3M floor pad technology has jumped to a new level in 2008 with the introduction of the Scotch-Brite™ Purple Diamond and Sienna Diamond Floor Pad System. These floor pads are designed to maintain polished concrete, marble, and Terrazzo flooring **without the use of floor coatings and strippers**. Thus, Scotch-Brite™ Diamond Floor Pad technology completely helps eliminate the use of floor finish and floor stripping chemicals in a stone floor maintenance program.
- ❖ **3M Floor Pad manufacturing facilities operate under a philosophy of operational excellence and continuous improvement.** Since 2004, our floor pad manufacturing has made continuous strides to further reduce our environmental impact. Some of these improvements include:
  - More efficient manufacturing equipment reducing air emissions by 30%
  - Improved ability to use manufacturing by-products and recycle them into our process rather than dispose in landfill
  - Product technology breakthroughs help reduce volatile organic compound usage in the manufacturing process.
  - Our U.S. floor pad manufacturing site is an **EPA Performance Track Facility**  
<https://yosemite.epa.gov/oepi/ptrack.nsf/vaMembersSortPages/faMembersByFacilityName>

*In summary*, 3M maintains high standards for product quality, performance, environmental leadership and safety. 3M provides technical and application information for its products and, where appropriate, material safety data sheets with up-to-date safety, environmental, and health hazard information. 3M stands behind all its products for performance, safety, minimizing environmental impact and general customer satisfaction when used according to directions.

Thank you for your interest in 3M products and services. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call or contact your local 3M Sales Representative.

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