Save My Floors!

Your floors are a disaster, and I want to help. Given my personal experience, I think I can help you recover from the disaster that is your current floor and bring them back to life.

I’ve been through it. Here are my floors after I used Mop and Glo / Orange Glo on them:

NASTY!

Notice they’re covered in white, waxy buildup. A lot of times this was actually stick as well. You couldn’t walk on them with socks.

But after a sold day of work, I was able to turn this around...
Pure Beauty!!!

Notice how all the white, sticky waxy buildup is gone and they’re back to being shiny floors

This manual will teach you how to do what I just did and recover your floors!
I know how it started

Let me see if I can guess what happened to you: You just moved into your home with shiny new wood floors (or maybe you just installed new floors.) You’re a conscientious soul; you’ve always taken care of your things. So you thought you would do the right thing and take care of them. Give them a little shine. Protect them. So you promptly went out and bought Mop and Glo to give your floors a shine.

Here’s what the folks at Reckitt Benckiser (the makers of Mop and Glo) promised you when you bought your Mop and Glo:

“MOP & GLO Triple Action Floor Shine Cleaner gives you a beautiful floor in a quick convenient one-step process. Not only does it clean away dirt, it leaves an unbeatable shine and protects your floor. With a fresh fragrance, this #1 Floor Shine Cleaner provides long-lasting protection from the scratches that can occur with daily household traffic.

MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner gives you beautiful shine for your wood floors in a quick, convenient one-step process. It cleans away dirt on floors with no dulling residue to reveal wood’s natural beauty. MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner is safe for all sealed wood floors…”

BUT IT WASN’T THE TRUTH!

When you applied the Mop and Glo, you had a problem. Your floors looked horrible. They looked milky, white, and dull. I thought my beautiful floors were ruined. Water and scrubbing don’t work. How will you fix it? I’ve been through the same thing. I ended up calling the company to work through the problem. I’ve recorded my experience here to help you. I’ve collected three things to help you sort this mess out:

1. Responses from the company when I called them directly with questions about why my floor didn’t look good and what I should do about it.

2. A step by step guide to the solution I finally settled to fix my floor

3. A few tips at the end to help you care for your floors over the long term.

Good luck with your floor problem – I truly believe if you follow these directions you’ll be able to clear up your issues in no time!
WHAT THE COMPANY SAYS

The first thing I did (after screaming my head off) was contact the owners of the Mop and Glo Reckitt Benckiser. If you call them directly with problems, you will begin to understand that this product is not safe for MANY floors, and even with normal floors, can leave them a nasty mess.

I contacted the company directly, and these are the answers I received to a standard set of questions:

Q: I poured MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner on my floor and did not damp mop it for quite some time. Now the floor is tacky and uneven in appearance. How can I improve this?

A: MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner is water-based. It will not harm a sealed floor. To correct this appearance, mop with clear water; squeeze out the mop and rub the area to remove excess product. This may have to be repeated several times.

Q: What causes a build-up on my floor?

A: As with any wax or polish, MOP & GLO Triple Action Floor Shine Cleaner should be removed periodically to prevent a build-up of old polish. This can occur if the floor is polished too frequently, and/or if not cleaned thoroughly in-between polishing.

Q: How do I remove this build-up?

A: Use a solution of 1/4 cup all purpose cleaner (such as LYSOL All Purpose Cleaner with out Bleach) and 1 cup household ammonia in ½ gallon of warm water. Wet the area with the solution and mop.

Q: After using MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner, my area rugs are sticking to the floor even though I am certain the floor was completely dry before replacing them. What caused this to happen? What can I do?

A: There may be some residual moisture left on the floor, or an excessive amount of product may have been used. You may want to wipe the area under the rug with a clean damp sponge to remove the excess.

Q: My floor doesn't look any better after using MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner, why?

A: MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner cleans, not shines. Your floor should look as it
had before. If your floor has a matte or dull finish, it will continue to have a matte appearance. If it had a high or glossy finish, it will continue to have a shiny appearance after cleaning.

Q: I used MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner and now my floor looks dull and white?

A: It could be that the floor was waxed. We do not recommend using MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner on a waxed floor. We recommend contacting the floor manufacturer for their recommendation to restore it to its original appearance.

Q: How can I tell if my floor is waxed?

A: Apply a small amount of water to an inconspicuous area. If the finish turns dull or white it is probably waxed.

Q: I applied MOP & GLO Triple Action Floor Shine Cleaner to my unglazed tile floor. Now it is discolored. How can I remove this?

A: Try using an ammonia based product, such as a floor stripper, to remove a floor polish. However, you should first check with the floor manufacturer to make sure the floor is safe to do so.

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Q: Can I use MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner on wood paneling that has been coated with only a stain?

A: No, we do not recommend using in this manner; unless there is a polyurethane or clear unwaxed finish on the paneling.

Q: Can MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner be used on Pergo or Laminate floors?

A: No, Pergo is a trade name for laminate floors. Laminates are not sealed like
wood floors are. MOP & GLO Wood Floor Cleaner has not been tested on laminates, so you should test it on an inconspicuous area first to make sure there is no damage.

So basically I figured out that the product WAS NOT SAFE for floors, what a pain. The solutions they provided were fairly draconian in nature – I was scared to go for a pure ammonia floor stripper. So I pondered a different solution.

**HOW I SAVED MY FLOOR!**

First off, I had to choose my cleaner. I whipped through my cabinets and I tried a bunch of things that didn't seem right – I was scared I was going to MAKE IT WORSE. So I settled on plain old Windex as a first try. AND IT WORKED. Here's how to do it.

1. **Get your tools:**

   - **Windex**
   - **No Scratch Sponges**
   - **Paper Towels**

   This is the main ingredient and it seemed to work magic. I tried everything before I finally settled on this. Soap, vinegar, ammonia. My contractor even suggested paint thinner! Windex is your friend – it's powerful but also won't melt your finish.

   You’re need something to really shake the wax from the Mop and Glo loose, but you also don’t want to scratch up your floor. Get a firm but soft sponge to do battle with the Mop and Glo.

   And to clean it all up, get a lot of paper towels. Bounty’s always been good to me.

2. **Clean your floors of any dust or grit with a damp mop.** You don’t want to rub any of that stuff in while you’re cleaning it and end up with scratches AND waxy buildup from the Mop and Glo.
2. **Work methodically – identify your work zone.** You can’t do it all at once. This is going to take patience and elbow grease. I worked sitting down (or on my hands and knees) in small sections about 2-3 feet in diameter.

3. **Spray your work area liberally with Windex.** Make sure it is nice and wet. Let it sit for a minute or so to soak in.

4. **Break up the wax with the sponge.** Now, get the action going with your sponge to really break up the wax. You have to really lean on it to get it going. Circular motion seemed to work best.

5. **Spray again with the Windex.** Don’t let it sit this time.

6. **Clean up.** Now wipe like mad with the paper towels again. Wipe it until it is dry.

7. **Check your work.** See if you have it all cleaned up. Run your hand over it, or a dry paper towel. It should feel smooth to the touch. Put your head on the floor and look at the reflection – it should look like it did before you made your fateful mistake.

8. **Repeat if necessary.** If there’s still a smudge, repeat 3-6 again. Now, hopefully it’s clean….

9. **Move on to the next spot.**

10. **Repeat steps 3-9 until your done.**

11. **Many hours later, DRINK A BEER AND CELEBRATE!**

**THE INDUSTRIALIZED METHOD**

So this ended up taking me a very long time, and it got it about 90% right. So I decided to industrialize the process. I eventually decided to make a homemade mix of floor cleaner to test out.

I used 1 cup household ammonia in ½ gallon of warm water. I used a mop and bucket and it seemed to work and it didn’t damage the floor.

I then used the Windex bottle and went over my floor about 2-3 times, and it cleared up beautifully!

**WHAT I DO NOW TO GET CLEAN FLOORS, NATURALLY WITH A GREAT SMELL**
So I learned my lesson with Mop and Glo. Nothing but natural for me for now on. I follow the advice of numerous friends of mine and use vinegar, but with a twist. It’s also great to note that numerous studies have shown that a 5% solution of vinegar (straight out of the store-bought bottle) kills 99 percent of bacteria, 82 percent of mold, and 80 percent of germs (viruses). And, unlike most commercial antibacterial cleaners, vinegar is non-toxic!

So I make a floor cleaning formula combines the germ-fighting power of vinegar with sweet-smelling herbs, so you have germ-fighting power, a natural clean, and a great smell. Here’s my recipe.

**Floor Cleaner with Fragrant Herbs**

1 Gallon of water or more  
1/8 cup liquid soap or detergent  
1/4 to 1/2 cup white distilled vinegar or lemon juice  
1/2 cup fragrant herb tea (peppermint is great as it adds antibacterial qualities)

Combine ingredients in a pail or bucket. Swirl the water around until it is sudsy. Mop as usual (but don’t use too much water.)

**A FINAL NOTE**
Test everything on a small patch before you go crazy. You don’t want to make it worse. If it doesn’t work in the beginning, consult a professional. I’m just a novice here myself, so I hope you found my advice helpful.

**THANKS AGAIN!**
I hope you found this useful. I appreciate any feedback on these floor cleaning instructions – if you email me at John@savemyfloors.com I will incorporate any feedback I receive. I’d also love to post your success story online if you have it!

John