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## The Facilities Manager's Dirty Little Secret

One of the first things people notice when they meet someone new, is their smile. A great smile is more than just a calling card for good hygiene. In some cultures, it's considered a key indicator of better health and deeper happiness.

The first toothbrush patent was issued back in 1857, two years before the first escalator patent; but, the toothbrush as we know it today didn't come into vogue until the mid-1930s. Prior to that, people would just rub the frayed end of a wooden chew stick, or use a rag with soot and salt as their feeble attempts at oral hygiene. Today, everyone brushes their teeth every day because it's fast and easy to do, provides better hygiene and saves money on dental repairs. **The same holds true for the daily cleaning of all high traffic flooring areas. It too improves aesthetics and saves money on repair, replacement and maintenance costs.**

That said, there is a high-traffic flooring area in buildings today, that in addition to being the most expensive, is also one of the most dangerous. And yet, **this dirty little secret**, this vestige of a bygone era, is so neglected, that most facilities managers can't even recall when it was cleaned last - - - the majority don't even have a procedure in place to clean a spilled drink when one occurs on it! **It is this level of avoidance and neglect that's made it one of the highest slip and fall injury exposure areas in any building.**

By Ori Rosenbaum



**The first toothbrush patent was issued in 1857, just two years before the first escalator patent was issued.**



**Costing hundreds of thousands of dollars and transporting nearly a hundred billion people a year in the US alone, there is no flooring area more expensive, more dangerous, more visible and more highly trafficked than the escalator.**

Yet, escalators are still cleaned at a fraction of the frequency of their much lesser siblings, carpeting and hard flooring. **How could something so obvious, so expensive and so dangerous be left to wreak havoc for so long?**

For the same reason nobody brushed their teeth before 1857.

## **THE TOOTHBRUSH FOR THE ESCALATOR HAS ARRIVED!**

Technology has evolved to the point where it can actually be less expensive when all is taken into account, to clean escalators every day, rather than allow them to accumulate dirt and grease over extended periods of time.

**To see meticulously cleaned carpets and highly polished floors leading up to a greasy, dirty escalator is simply no longer acceptable.**



**Take the minute long ride up any escalator and the first thing you'll notice when riding up, is that you're staring down. What you see beneath your shoes won't be pretty, but it'll be the one thing you remember as you leave**

- You can now clean an escalator with less effort than it takes to sweep a floor and less skill than required to use a mop.
- **Don't let your escalators be the weakest link in your facility.**
- **Your escalator could have already been cleaned in the time it took you to read this.**

View the REN system in action at: [www.renclean.com](http://www.renclean.com), or call: (916) 739-2000