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# POWR-FLITE P171 Owner's Manual

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# **Powr-Flite**<sup>®</sup>

**COMMERCIAL FLOOR CARE EQUIPMENT**

## Standard and High Speed Floor Machines

P201, P171, P131, 175 RPM  
Standard Speed

P201HD, P171HD, 175 RPM  
Standard Speed Heavy Duty

P202, P172, 175/320 RPM  
Dual Speed

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P203, P173, 300 RPM  
High Speed

P171SD, 175 RPM  
Sander

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U.S. Patent Number 4,756,042 • U.S. Patent Number 296,251



## Operator's Manual

**Powr-Flite**<sup>®</sup>  
**COMMERCIAL FLOOR CARE EQUIPMENT**

A Tacony Company  
3101 Wichita Court • Ft. Worth, TX 76140-1710

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P201, P171, P131, 175 RPM  
Standard Speed

P201HD, P171HD, 175 RPM  
Standard Speed Heavy Duty

P202, P172, 175/320 RPM  
Dual Speed

P203, P173, 300 RPM  
High Speed

P171SD, 175 RPM  
Sander

***Your new Powr-Flite® Floor Machine will afford you many years of trouble-free operating satisfaction provided it is given proper care. Prior to packaging your Powr-Flite® Floor Machine was inspected by a Quality Control Technician.***

## UNCRATING

Your **Powr-Flite®** Floor Machine was protectively packed to prevent damage in shipment. We suggest that upon removing the unit from its carton, you carefully inspect it for any possible damage in transit. If damage is discovered, immediately notify the transportation company who delivered your machine. As a manufacturer, we are unable to act upon any claim for concealed damage; you must originate the claim.

## IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

This machine is designed to be safe when used to perform the functions specified in this Operator's Manual. Should damage occur to electrical or mechanical parts, the machine should be repaired by the manufacturer or competent service station before using in order to avoid further damage to the machine or physical injury to user. Your floor machine is equipped with a safety switch lockout device designed for your safety. Do not attempt to bypass or defeat the safety lockout device. Never use any device to lock the power switch triggers in the ON position.

## WARNINGS

### ***READ THIS OPERATOR'S MANUAL!***

**WARNING:** You must have training in the operation of this machine before using it.

**WARNING:** Machines can burn flammable materials and vapors. Do not use this machine with or near fuels, grain dust, solvents, thinners or other flammable materials.

**WARNING:** Do not operate this machine unless it is completely assembled.

**WARNING:** Do not use this machine as a step or to move furniture.

**WARNING:** When disconnecting power cord from electrical outlet, grasp the plug. Pulling it out by the cord itself can damage cord insulation and internal connection to plug. To prevent electric shock, always remove the electrical plug from the electrical outlet before doing any repairs or maintenance to this machine.

**WARNING:** To prevent injury, always remove the electrical plug from the electrical outlet before changing the polishing pad and before leaving the machine.

**WARNING:** To prevent injury, keep hands, feet and loose clothing away from the rotating pad.

**WARNING:** Maintenance and repairs must be done by authorized personnel only.

**WARNING:** Keep all fasteners tight. Keep adjustments according to specifications.

**WARNING:** Keep the electrical parts of the machine dry. For storage, keep the machine in a building.

**WARNING:** Always use a three-wire electrical system connected to

the electrical ground. For maximum protection against electric shock, use a circuit that is protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter. Consult with your electrical contractor.

**WARNING:** To prevent damage to the power cord, do not let the pad, pad driver or wheels touch the power cord when the machine is running. Always lift the power cord over the machine.

**WARNING:** Make sure all labels, decals, warning, cautions and instructions are fastened to the machine.

## APPLICATIONS FOR FLOOR MACHINE (MODELS P201, P171, P201HD, P171HD and P131) 175 RPM ONLY

The **Powr-Flite®** 175 RPM floor machine will operate in a wide variety of applications. The 175 RPM floor machine is the most versatile speed in the floor care industry.

## APPLICATIONS OF 175 RPM STANDARD SPEED FLOOR MACHINES ON HARD FLOORS

- Spray buffing with a **Powr-HD™** red spray buff pad and spray buff chemical, such as **Powr-Glo®**.
- Dry buffing a buffable finish with a **Powr-HD™** tan, beige or white pad or **Powr-Luster™** brush.
- Scrubbing with a **Powr-HD™** green or blue pad or scrubbing brush, such as **Powr-Scuff™**.
- Stripping with a **Powr-HD™** black pad and a stripping chemical, such as **Powr-Up®**.

## APPLICATIONS OF 175 RPM STANDARD SPEED FLOOR MACHINES ON CARPET

- Bonnet cleaning with a **Powr-Sorb™** yarn bonnet and carpet maintainer chemical, such as **Spin-Away®**.
- Shampooing using a showerfeed shampoo brush and solution tank mounted to the hand containing carpet shampoo.

## APPLICATION OF POWR-FLITE® HEAVY DUTY 175 RPM FLOOR MACHINES (MODELS P201HD and P171HD)

The heavy duty standard speed floor machine may be used for spray buffing, dry buffing, scrubbing and stripping applications. These heavy duty floor machines are specially recommended for long term aggressive scrubbing and stripping maintenance. The P201HD & P171HD heavy duty floor machines are specially recommended for the following applications:

- Scraping with an attachment such as the **Powr-Elite® Scrape-Away®** tool to remove heavy industrial deposits and residue or to prepare a foundation for installation of carpet.
- Wire brushing of concrete floors.
- Sanding with very aggressive sandpaper or sand screen discs.
- Carpet restoration where shampooing & pile lifting require very stiff brush bristles.

## TO INSTALL THE OPTIONAL SOLUTION TANK

Mount the solution tank to the front of the handle and attach with mounting brackets and knobs. Position the solution tank control handle horizontally and below the switch lever of the machine and adjacent to the right handle grip.

Remove the plug from the motor housing and insert the (long) extension tube adaptor and secure at bottom of machine with the retainer. The solution tank should be used only with a showerfeed drive block or brush.

## WARNING

To prevent injury, always remove the electrical plug from the electrical outlet before changing the polishing pad and before leaving the machine.

## PREPARE THE MACHINE FOR OPERATION

To attach the drive block or brush or other attachment, be sure the handle is “locked” in the upright position (*See picture #1*). Lay the floor machine on its back with the handle lying on the floor, this exposes the driving plate on the underside of the floor machine. Holding the drive block, brush or attachment in both hands and straddling the motor with your back to the handlebox, bend over and fit the three slots of the clutch plate (built into the back of the brush) over the three lugs of the driving plate. Turn the drive block, brush or attachment counter-clockwise as far as it will go until it is seated in the ready-to-use position. (*See picture #2*)

**CAUTION:** This is the only proper way to install a drive block, brush or attachment. **NEVER** put a drive block, brush or attachment on the machine by placing it on the floor and moving the running machine over it, or by placing the machine over the block or attachment and then starting the motor.

Return the floor machine to upright position and adjust handle to operating position. Recommended handle position is close to the waist with arms extended down. Lock the cam release lever into position.

**NOTE:** *The hardened steel cam release lever does not require extreme tightening to effectively hold the handle in position. Over-tightening will shorten the functional life of the lever. To remove drive block, brush or attachment: Lay the floor machine on it's back again and disengage clutch plate slots from driving plate lugs by turning clockwise.*

## HOW TO OPERATE THE MACHINE

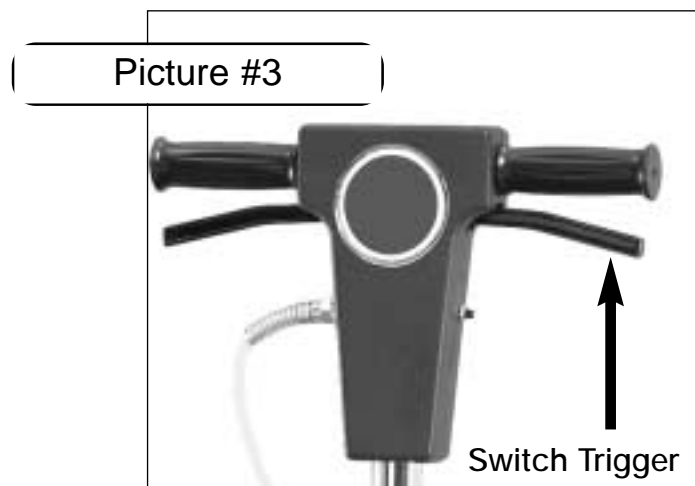
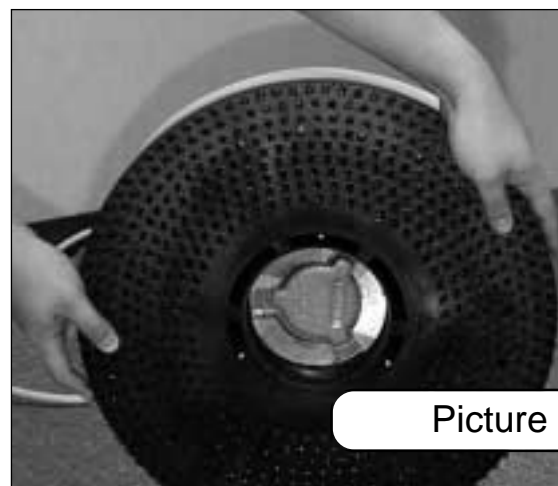
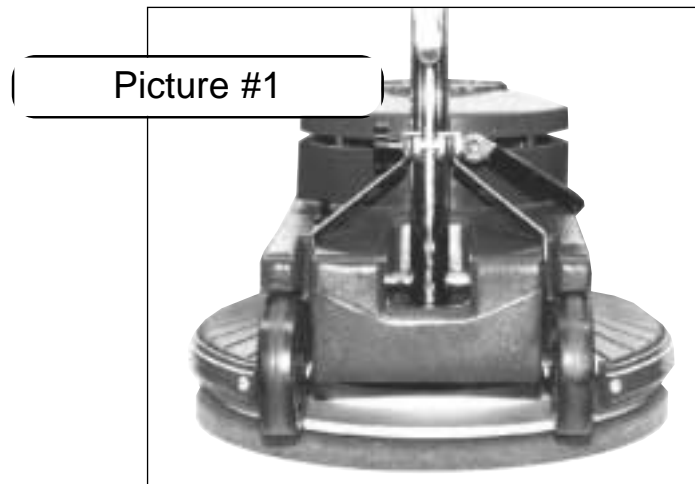
With the drive block and pad, brush or attachment in the ready-to-use position, the handle locked at the desired operating height, and the electric cable plugged in, place hands on the handle grips and squeeze the switch triggers beneath the handle grips. (*See picture #3*)

This activates the motor and starts the block, brush or attachment in operation. **CAUTION:** *When leaving the machine unattended, disconnect the wall plug and return the handle to the “locked” upright position to prevent accidental starting.*

## TO GUIDE YOUR FLOOR MACHINE

To Right: raise handle slightly. The higher the handle is lifted, the faster the machine will move to the right.

To Left: to change direction, lower the handle until the machine travels to the left. The more the handle is lowered, the faster the movement to the left.



## APPLICATION OF THE HIGH SPEED 300 RPM FLOOR MACHINES (MODELS P203 and P173)

**Spray Buffing** to revitalize an existing floor finish to a “wet look” shine especially in heavy traffic areas using a Powr-HD™ yellow or natural hoghair blend pad.

**Dry Buffing** with a brush on uneven floors coated with a buffable finish or with a **Powr-HD™** tan, beige or white pad on even floor surfaces.

## OPERATIONS OF THE HIGH SPEED 300 RPM (MODELS P203 and P172)

Follow the same operation procedures described for 175 RPM machines.

## APPLICATION OF THE DUAL SPEED 175/320 RPM MACHINES (MODELS P202 and P172)

The **Powr-Elite®** dual speed machines will operate in a broad range of applications. These machines perform all the applications of the 175 RPM standard speed machines and the 300 RPM high speed machines except the specialized applications.

**Do not use dual speed machines for sanding grinding or scraping**

The dual speed machines are specially designed for spray cleaning of heavy traffic areas.

## OPERATION OF THE DUAL SPEED MACHINES

Follow the operation procedures described for 175 RPM machines. The proper speed selection is important to properly operate these machines. Speed selection Low (175 RPM) or High (320 RPM) is made with the switch located on the base and motor housing. (*See Picture #4*)

Stripping, scrubbing, bonnet cleaning and shampooing should be performed at 175 RPM Low Speed.

Spray buffing and dry buffing should be performed at 320 RPM, High Speed.

Spray cleaning is a two speed maintenance operation. Apply a spray buff chemical such as **Powr-Glo®** to the floor ahead of the machine. Make the first passes through the spray buff at low speed with an open weave pad such as the **Powr-HD™** blue cleaner pad or the brown hoghair blend spray cleaner pad.

Remove the spray cleaning pad and place a buffing pad on the machine such as **Powr-HD™** yellow, beige or natural hoghair blend pads.

Switch the speed to High 320 RPM and buff the dulled finish to a high gloss.

Unplug the power cord and wrap it under the cord hook and over the right handle grip. Clean the cord off to prevent heavy soiling and cleaning residues from building up on the cord. This is a good time to inspect the cord for cuts, gashes and loose prongs. Tip the machine back and remove the pad and the drive block or brush.

The condition of the floor pad or brush has a direct affect on the performance of your floor machine. When the pad becomes dirty, turn it over and use the other side. When finished, wash the pad or brush and allow it to dry completely before using it again. Stand the wet brush on the bristles until dry, then hang up the brush.

**Do not store the machine with the drive block, pad or brush on the machine.**

Wipe off the machine housing and wheels to prevent build-up of unnecessary residue.

## TRANSPORTING THE MACHINE

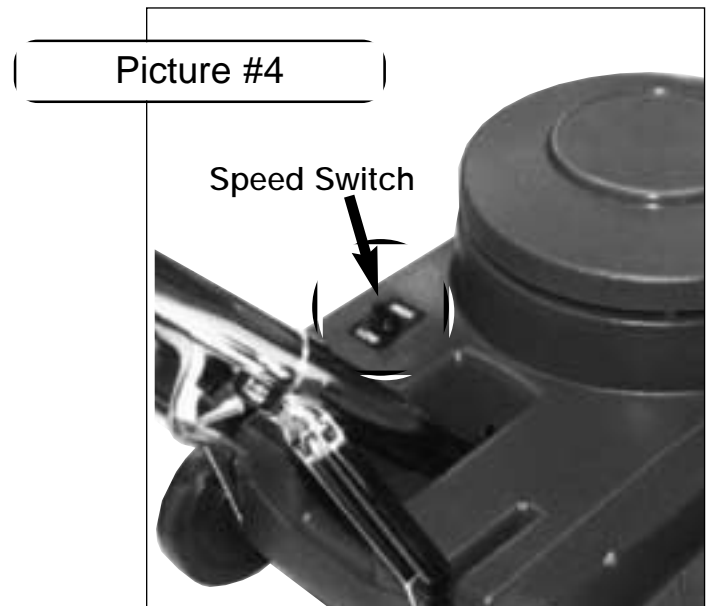
Place the handle in the upright position. Lock the handle cam release lever. Tip the machine back and transport on the wheels.

## MAINTENANCE FOR THE P201, P203, P171, P173, P131, P201HD, P171HD, P202 and P172

Once a month remove the motor cover of the unplugged machine by pulling evenly, but firmly, with both hands until the cover is removed. Vacuum out any dust or debris which has accumulated on the motor. Replace the motor cover by setting it over the holes in the housing and firmly pushing it down.

Check and maintain the tightness of all the fasteners.

**WARNING:** Do not over-tighten the switch housing screws.



Keep the machine clean especially at the handle tube and collar so the handle tube will move freely through the collar. Inspect the cord for cuts, gashes, or loose prongs; replace as needed.

**Disassembly of this motor voids the warranty.** Improper disassembly and assembly of this motor can permanently damage the field or rotor.

**For P202 & P172 only:** The length of the carbon brushes should be inspected annually. If they are no longer extended past the holder window, they should be replaced. Replacement of the carbon brushes should only be done by a qualified service technician.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

### ***Machine does not run.***

The circuit breaker has tripped. Allow the circuit breaker 2 minutes to cool before resetting.

Plug is broken or has loose contact. Replace.

### ***Prevent circuit overload.***

Check the pad and change it if it is rough or dirty.

Spray buffing or spray cleaning is not a substitute for scrubbing or mopping a floor. Prepare the floor surface before spray buffing.

Eliminate any extension cord that is smaller than 12/3 wire or greater than 25 feet in length.

Unplug anything other than the machine from the circuit or locate another circuit.

### ***Machine will not start.***

Circuit breaker is not reset. Reset breaker.

Plug is broken or has a loose contact. Replace.

Circuit breaker is defective or weak. Replace.

Switch is defective. Replace switch.

Rectifier is defective. Replace rectifier (P202 and P172 only).

### ***Machine will not reach operating speed.***

Unplug anything else other than the machine from the circuit or locate another circuit.

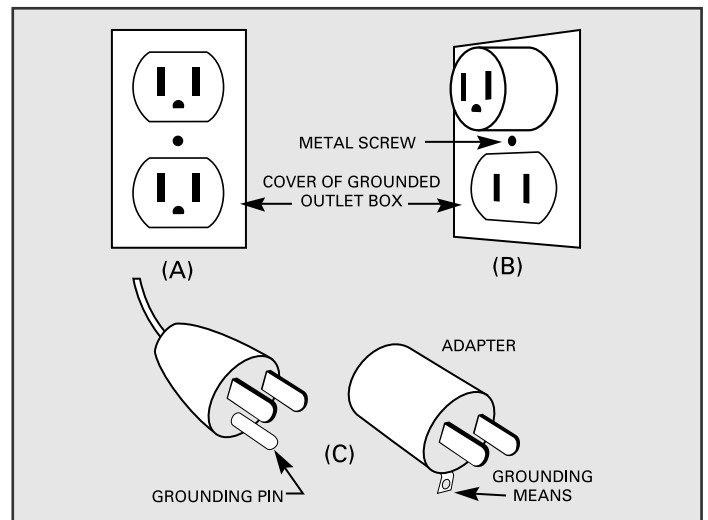
### ***Motor runs but pad or brush does not turn.***

Coupling is broken. Replace. Coupling is not covered under warranty. Do not attempt to place a running machine over a block or brush. Always place and remove the block or brush by hand.

## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

This Floor Machine should be grounded while in use to protect the operator from electric shock. This machine is equipped with a 3-conductor cord and a 3-prong grounded type attachment cap plug to fit the proper grounding type receptacle. The green (or green and yellow) conductor in the cord is the grounding wire. Never connect this wire to anything other than the grounding blade.

The Floor Machine is provided with an attachment cap plug, as shown in Sketch A, and is intended for use on a nominal 120 volt circuit. If a properly grounded receptacle, as shown in Sketch A, is unavailable, an adaptor, as shown in Sketch C, is available and should be installed, as shown in Sketch B, if the outlet box that houses the receptacle is grounded. Be sure to fasten the grounding tap to the faceplate screw.



## ***ONE LAST REMINDER! READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS, WARNINGS AND CAUTIONS BEFORE USING EQUIPMENT.***

These guidelines are presented for your protection and convenience. Please read them carefully, since a failure to heed these precautions could result in discomfort or injury. When using an electrical appliance, basic safety precautions should always be followed.

**WARNING**  
**TO AVOID FIRE, DO NOT USE WITH A FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID TO CLEAN FLOOR.**

**Power-Flite**  
COMMERCIAL FLOOR CARE EQUIPMENT

A Tacony Company  
3101 Wichita Court • Ft. Worth, TX 76140-1710

# ***Power-Flite*** **Power HD™ Pads**

***The Finest Quality, Heavy Duty Floor Pads Available!***

***Nylon Blend Thick Pads • Polyester Blend Thick Pads • Hoghair Pads***

***All Thin Pads Packed 10 Pads Per Case • All Thick Pads Packed 5 Pads Per Case  
Pads Sold By The Case Only • Cases Can Be Assorted To Obtain Quantity Pricing.***

## ***Black Strip Pad***

### ***Nylon Blend***

For heavy-duty wet stripping. Very aggressive agent embedded throughout pad. Removes old wax build-up. Cleans down to original surface.

## ***Yellow High Speed Spray Buff Pad***

### ***Polyester Blend***

For spray buffing when using a high speed buffing machine. Light aggressive agent in pad. Specially designed for use with high speed floor machines for an extra high gloss finish.

## ***Brown Strip Pad***

### ***Polyester Blend***

For heavy-duty wet or dry stripping. Very aggressive agent embedded throughout pad. Removes old wax build-up. Cleans down to original surface.

## ***Beige Ultra High Speed Spray Buff Pad***

### ***Polyester Blend***

Specially designed when using an ultra high speed floor machine (1200 to 2000 RPM). Mild aggressive agent in pad for light cleaning and super polishing.

## ***Green Scrub Pad***

### ***Nylon Blend***

For heavy-duty scrubbing or light stripping, wet or spray. Aggressive agent embedded throughout pad. Removes heavy dirt and scuff marks without removing waxed finish.

## ***White Super Polish Pad***

### ***Polyester Blend***

For polishing No aggressive agent in pad. Extra fine pad for producing high luster finish.

## ***Blue Cleaner Pad***

### ***Polyester Blend***

For heavy-duty scrubbing or light stripping, wet or spray. Aggressive agent embedded throughout pad. Removes heavy dirt and scuff marks without removing waxed finish.

## ***Natural High Speed Spray Buff Pad***

### ***Hoghair Blend***

Produces a wet look shine of unequalled brilliance when spray buffing.

## ***Tan Buff Pad***

### ***Nylon Blend***

For buffing and light wet scrubbing. Mild aggressive agent embedded throughout pad. Removes light scuff marks and dirt while producing a smooth, shining finish.

## ***Brown Spray Cleaner Pad***

### ***Hoghair Blend***

Aggressive agent embedded in pad for unsurpassed cleaning.

## ***Red Spray Buff Pad***

### ***Polyester Blend***

For spray-buffing and light scrubbing. Mild aggressive agent embedded throughout pad. Removes light scuff marks and dirt while producing a smooth shining finish.

## ***Green Stripping Pad***

### ***Hoghair Blend***

Heavy-duty aggressive agent embedded throughout pad for removing old floor finish.