



AMF Bowling Ball Belt Cleaning

Gates has evaluated several commonly available cleaning products for use in cleaning bowling ball belts. Five cleaners were chosen based on their availability, rubber compatibility, probability of success and ease of application as follows:

1. Pine-Sol Spray Cleaner
2. Fantastik All Purpose Cleaner
3. Murphy Oil Soap - Spray Formula
4. Spic & Span Pine Cleaner - Liquid Formula
5. Dawn Dishwashing Detergent

Each cleaning agent was evaluated on bowling ball belt for its effectiveness in removing both the urethane based lane conditioner and the water based conditioner. Additionally, the cleaned belts were soaked for 18 days at room temperature in the cleaners to evaluate compatibility. All cleaners were used as per package directions, i.e. - 1, 2 and 3 were all spray cleaners and were sprayed onto the belts at full strength; 4 and 5 were mixed with room temperature water as per package instructions. (The Spic & Span resulted in a 1.6% solution in water and the Dawn Detergent result in a 0.34% solution.)

Results: All five cleaners removed both types of conditioners, though 4 and 5 required two rinses to completely remove the conditioner films. Pine-Sol and Fantastik were equally effective in cleaning the belt, but the Pine-Sol was unpleasantly odoriferous and would not be recommended for use in confined spaces. The Murphy Oil Soap effectively cleaned the belts, but failed the compatibility soak test. A white film formed on the green surface of the belt within the first 67 hours of immersion. Cleaners 1,2,4 and 5 had no visible deleterious effect on the belt surface after 18 days of soaking.

In summary, Gates would recommend the use of Fantastik All Purpose Cleaner on bowling ball belts because of its effectiveness, ease of use, availability and compatibility with the belt. Use of these cleaners should provide comparable results on other belts.