



Robert Scott's Official Guide to Mops

All we know about mopping in one handy guide.

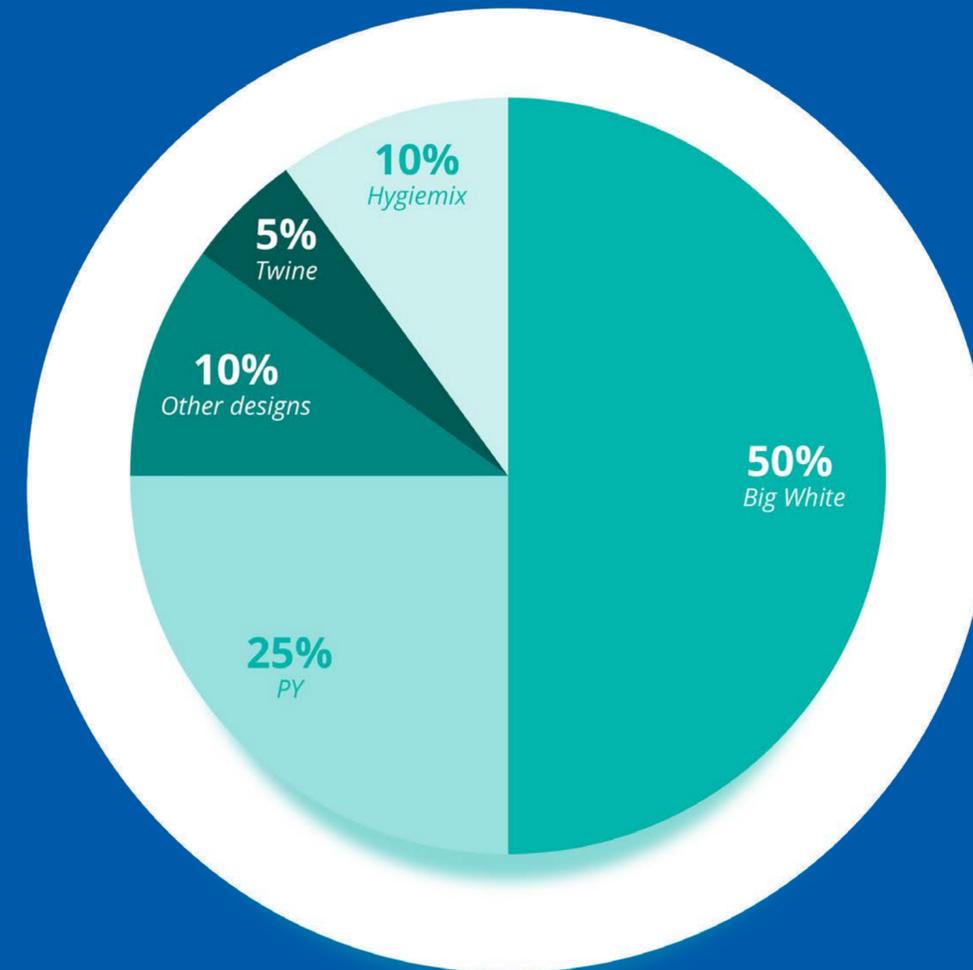
INTRODUCTION

At Robert Scott, we've been making mops since the 1930's and today we're the UK's largest manufacturer of mops, and one of the largest in Europe, supplying 23 million a year to the janitorial sector.

The traditional mop is the workhorse of the cleaning cupboard, but it has also developed over time and today there's so many different options available to match the cleaning task at hand.

Here, we talk about the best way to use a mop, explain the differences between styles, how they have developed over time, and why they're so important in the fight against grime for the janitor, housekeeper and cleaner.

When we talk about traditional mops, we mean socket mops with cotton-rich yarn, but also mops with different fabric types such as the washable Hygiemix and Revolution mop which is made of a mix of cotton and polyester so it's more robust and can be washed more times. In this guide we also talk about microfibre flat mops too, such as the Microtex, Microspeedy or Pro-mist spray mop.



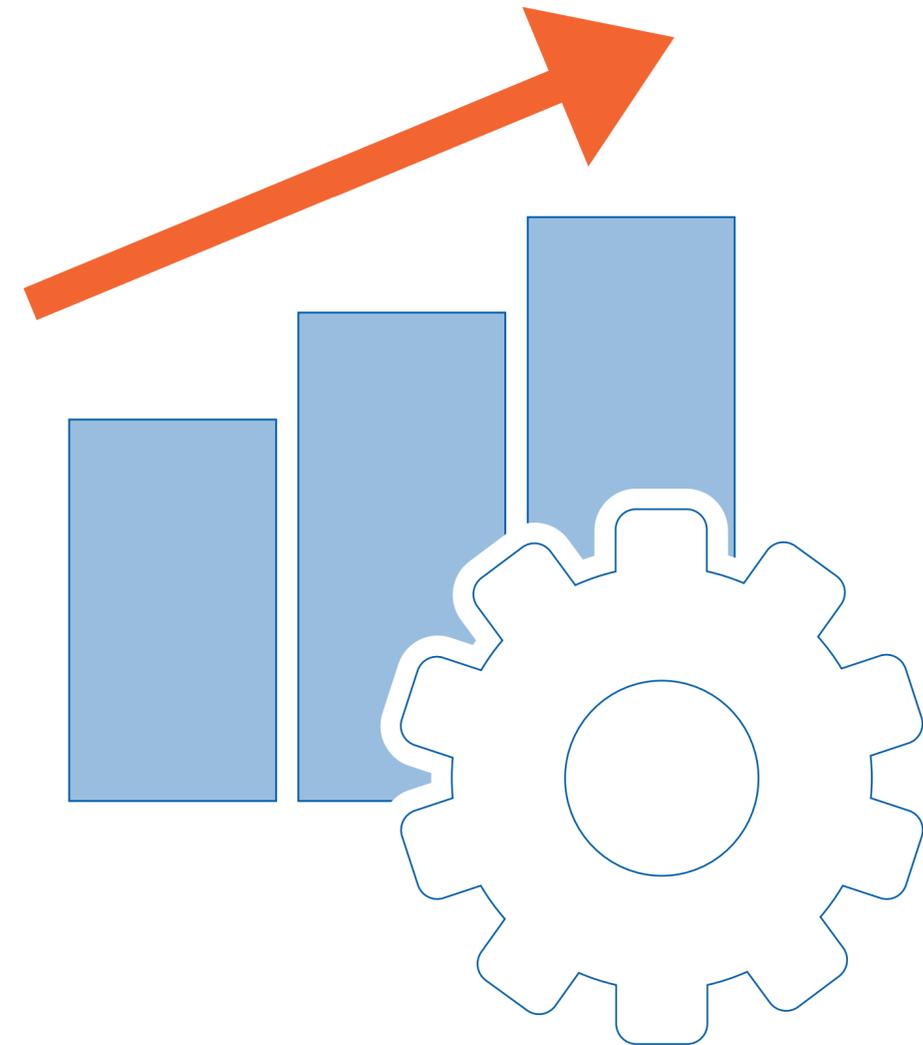
*Percentage breakdown of mops made in 2020/21

HOW IS MOPPING EQUIPMENT CHANGING?

There is a lot of innovation happening in the manual mop category to optimise product performance for end users. A few examples from our own range include the Biofresh mop which inhibits the growth of bacteria and odours within the mop, stay-flat bands which help increase the contact between the mop and the floor, and scratch-back bands which provide an abrasive surface for removing dirt while mopping.

There's also the Exel socket which fixes the mop to the handle much more securely than screw fittings, through to microfibre yarn and flat mops which are washable and reusable, super absorbent and lift dirt very effectively without the need for chemicals.

The manufacture of mops here in the UK by Robert Scott is constantly monitored for weight, yarn and production quality – that's the first stage of making sure the cleaner has the best possible mop for the task at hand.



THE ADVANTAGES OF TRADITIONAL MOPPING SYSTEMS

Traditional mopping systems have many advantages. Aside from being a versatile and convenient solution for every day and quick response cleaning, they are also easy to operate using the basic training principles of standard cleaning practices.

Traditional mopping systems also offer the benefit of lower capital expenditure up front, as well as reducing ongoing costs – which is an important consideration for businesses dealing with rising material costs.

Most traditional mop systems require little to no down time so can be used repeatedly either by replacing the mop head or microfibre pad to optimise cleanliness and hygiene for the areas being cleaned throughout the day.

The versatility of the manual mop makes it a great option in so many situations – from cleaning small to large areas, quick response cleaning, tackling a slip hazard or spot cleaning, or when there are obstacles to navigate.

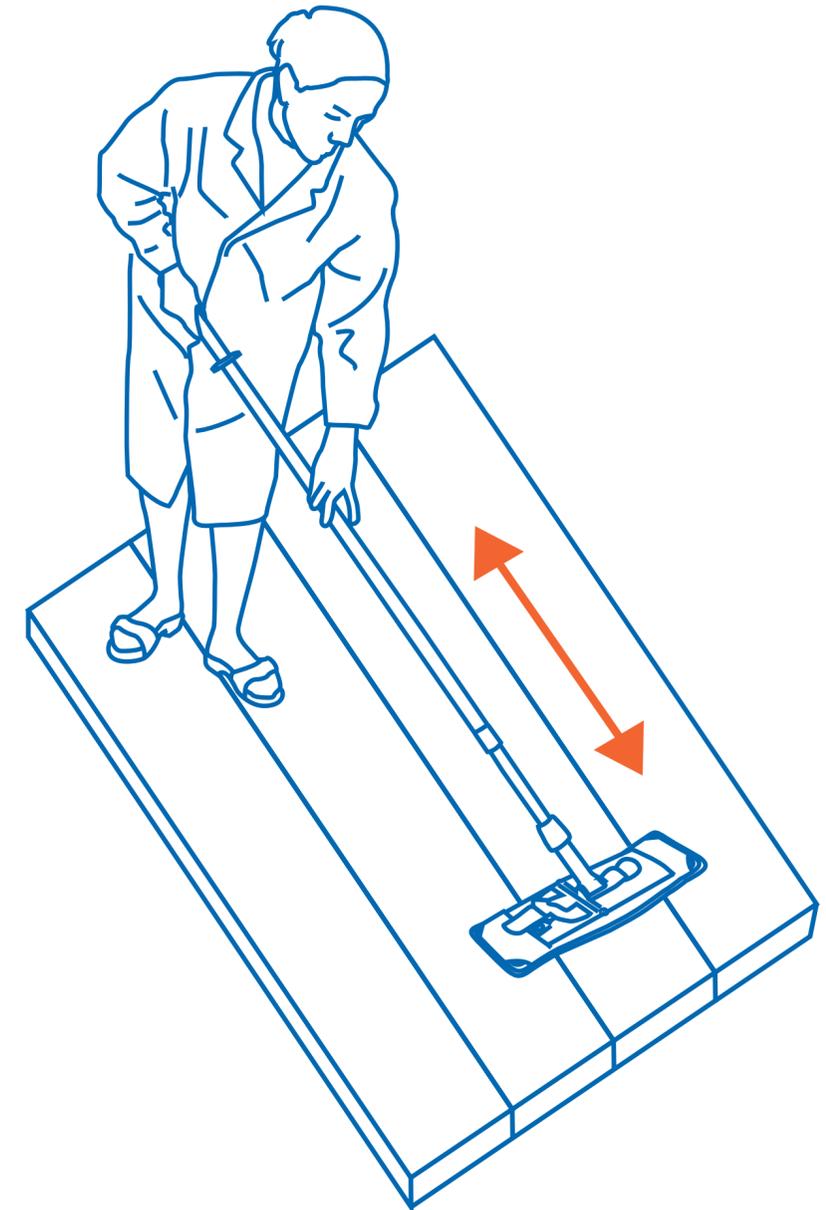
Traditional mops are light, easier, and simpler to use and move around than machines so they're ideal for on-the-spot applications and quick response cleaning. If you're using a machine system and have spaces that include stairs, different floor surfaces, furniture and other obstacles to navigate during cleaning, manual mops make even more sense.



MOP CLEANING TIPS FOR BEST RESULT

So, let's start with the basics – how best to mop floors.

- Always vacuum or sweep before you mop to prevent spreading dirt around the floor.
- Place a wet floor sign in the area being cleaned, ideally preventing any access by the public, and ensure adequate ventilation.
- Use hot water and change your water frequently, which is even more important if using a traditional mop and bucket method when you are rinsing the mop in the same water.
- The general cleaning guides apply to mopping in so much as it's best to start in the cleanest areas first and work towards the dirtiest areas last. This again prevents spreading dirt too.
- For general floor clean, start mopping in the furthest corner of the room away from the doorway and backwards towards the exit so you don't walk over your clean, wet floor.
- Sounds basic, but mop backwards so you're not walking over the clean area.
- If mopping wooden flooring, mop in the direction of the grain for a cleaner finish, and we'd recommend a flat mop here also as you're using less water.



MOP CLEANING TIPS FOR BEST RESULT

We recommend mopping once or twice a week, more for high traffic areas and straight away for spills and slip hazards of course.

- Don't fill your bucket with more water than is needed – enough to submerge the mop head which also means it's not so heavy that you can't move the bucket around easily.
- And don't use too much water as this will just take longer to dry and possibly leave streaks depending on the floor type.
- Use the right ratio of water to cleaning agent to avoid streaks and stickiness.
- Where possible use a wringer to remove excess water. This makes the job much easier and also means a faster drying time too.
- Mop in a figure of eight and each should overlap to make sure you have cleaned properly. This not only helps you to keep track of where you've cleaned but also prevents cross contamination.
- Rinse your mop regularly depending on how dirty the floor is and, again, wring to prevent streaks and excess water.
- Pour away the water when it starts to get dirty and refill with clean water.
- Let the floor dry completely before walking on it and good ventilation will help to make the floor dry quicker.

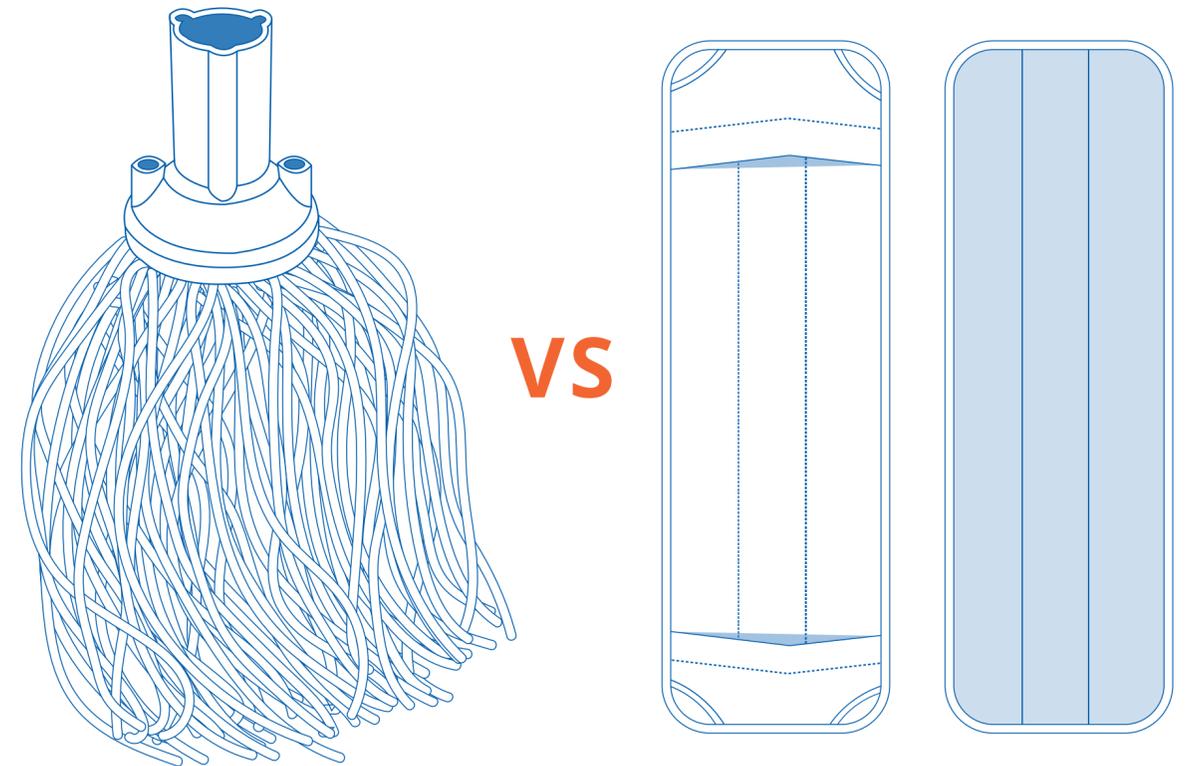


WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MOP HEADS AND MOP PADS?

Mops heads are the traditional and time proven way to clean floors with a cotton-rich yarn, such as PY (a traditional absorbent mop yarn that is thicker and more suitable for smooth surfaces.)

Microfibre flat mops are designed to be washable and reused many times over. They work by lifting and capturing dirt and germs which are then removed during the washing process, so more likely to be used with bucketless systems.

However, with the sheer variety of environments that require cleaning every day, and the comparatively low cost of manual mopping systems versus machine systems – which offer less versatility – we believe that manual mops will certainly be with us for many years to come.



THE DIFFERENCE IN REUSABLE VS DISPOSABLE MOPS

Simple considerations such as access to water for refilling and laundry facilities for cleaning mops should all be recorded as part of a cleaning audit. This will help determine whether a disposable, semi-disposable or reusable cleaning regime is required and will therefore allow you to choose the most appropriate system.

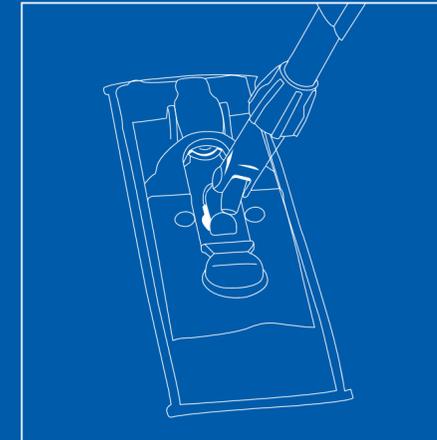
Wherever possible we would recommend reusable though, just as it's more of an eco-friendly way to clean.

Reusable mops can be better for capturing dirt and germs too, again especially microfibre, which also dries faster than cotton. You can throw the mops into industrial washing machines to make them hygienically clean and last even longer. And you can use wash bags if you're concerned about washing fibres out along with the water.

Disposable mops can also work out to be more expensive in the longer term but are great for cleaning heavily soiled flooring quickly or instances where you need to clean and dispose of.

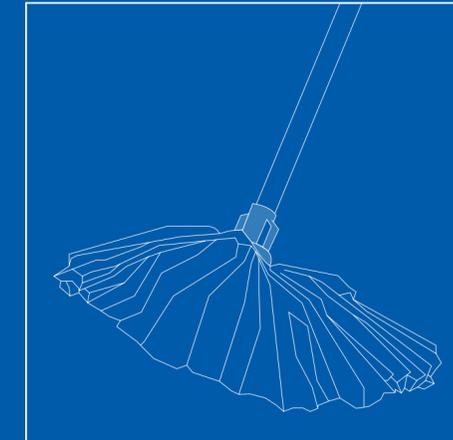
1. DISPOSABLE MOPS

eg - Mi-mop disposable microfibre flat mop



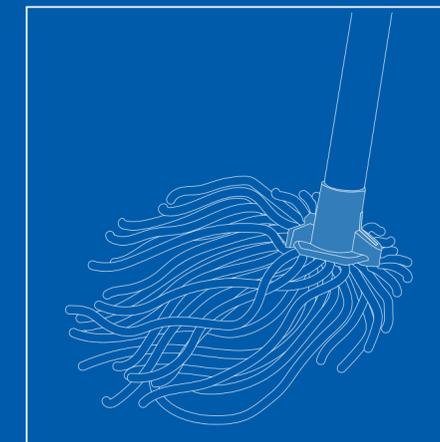
2. SEMI-DISPOSABLE MOPS

eg - Big White mop



3. REUSABLE MOPS

eg - Refill mop



PICK ANY MOP...

Mops are available in a variety of styles, materials and options, designed to suit whatever floor type and size of space you need. Understanding the differences can help make sure you're using the correct mop for the job at hand.

SOCKET MOPS

Socket mopping includes a mop head attached to a push or screw fit handle along with a socket mop bucket such as the 15L Recycled Professional Bucket & Wringer. This is great for the floor cleaning of small to medium sizes areas, for example up to 30 to 40m². The handles are usually made from hardwearing plastic or aluminium and come with a plastic colour handle for ease of grip and hygiene coding.

The type of mop depends on the fabric and socket type.

- Socket options include the common socket mop, which also includes the Exel push-fit and T1D screw sockets.
- Kentucky mopping has a plastic or metal clip to hold the mop in place, and again includes the Exel push and screw fitting options. This means it can be easily changed and, as the mop heads are usually a heavier yarn, it is generally used for cleaning larger floor areas. Kentucky buckets are used with the mops to wring out the mops before each use. They can also be used for laying polish.
- The Refill mop is an eco-friendly mop consists of a reusable plastic socket and clip, along with a replaceable mop refill. When the mop is dirty or end of life simply recycle the fabric refill and reuse the plastic socket.

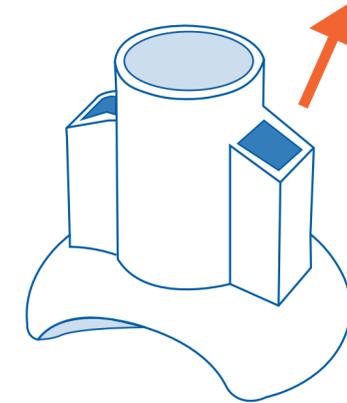
T1 SOCKET

A screw-thread socket used for Hygiemix and Biofresh mops. Compatible with Hygiene, Contract, Clippex & Composite handles. screw thread socket used for hygiemix and biofresh mops. Compatible with hygiene handles, contract handles, clippex & composite handles.



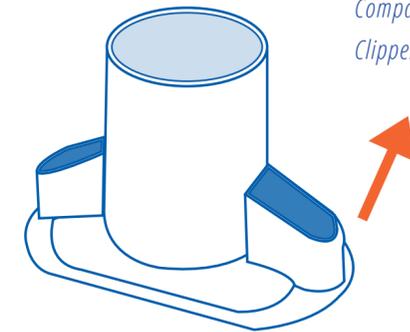
RS1 SOCKET

Has vertical thread, and compatible with 15/16" wooden handles and screw thread handles.



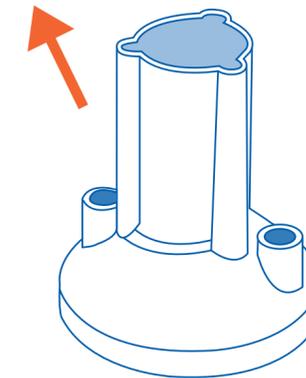
T1D SOCKET

A streamline version of the screw thread socket, resulting in less plastic. Compatible with Hygiene, Contract, Clippex & Composite handles.



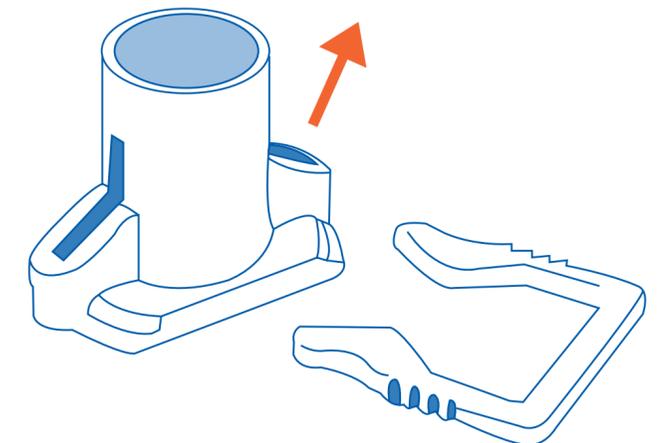
EXEL SOCKET

Compatible with all Robert Scott handles (except the italian household ones). Also fits wooden handles.



REFILL SOCKET

This socket is used with re-usable Big White, PY & Twine Refill mops and is supplied with the R1 clip. Compatible with Hygiene, Contract, Clippex & Composite handles.

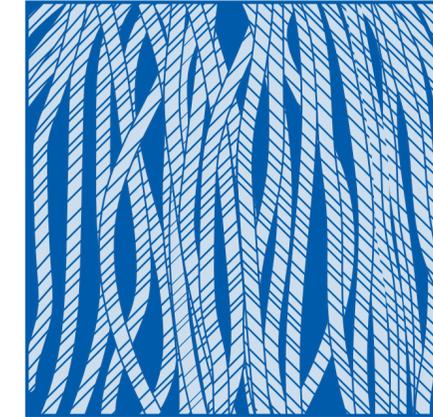


PICK ANY MOP...

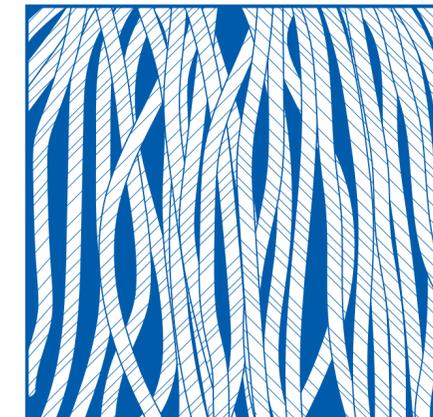
FABRIC OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- The more traditional cotton-rich mops are available in PY, Twine and Multi-Yarn formats.
- PY yarn is a traditional absorbent mop yarn that is thicker and more suitable for smooth surfaces.
- Twine is a thinner mop yarn that is more resistant to abrasion and suitable for more uneven, profiled floor surfaces. Twine mop yarn is less prone to linting than PY yarn.
- Multi-Yarn mop is designed for heavy duty floor cleaning.
- Big White non-woven fabric, which is a lightweight, low-linting and highly absorbent non-woven disposable fabric so the floors dry quicker.
- Hygiemix is a harder wearing mop made from a blend of cotton and polyester, and includes a stayflat band to increase the contact with the floor. This is a reusable mope and can be colour coded based on the stayflat band or yarn.
- Biofresh is similar to the Hygiemix except it includes an antibacterial additive to prevent bacteria and smells from growing on the mop.
- Microfibre yarn is made from a blend of polyester and polyamide fibres creating a high quality, super absorbent mop, ideal for fast and hygienic cleaning of large floor areas without the need for chemicals.

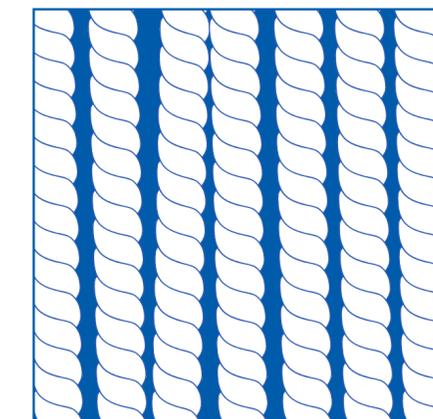
1. TWINE



2. HYGIEMIX



3. MICROFIBRE



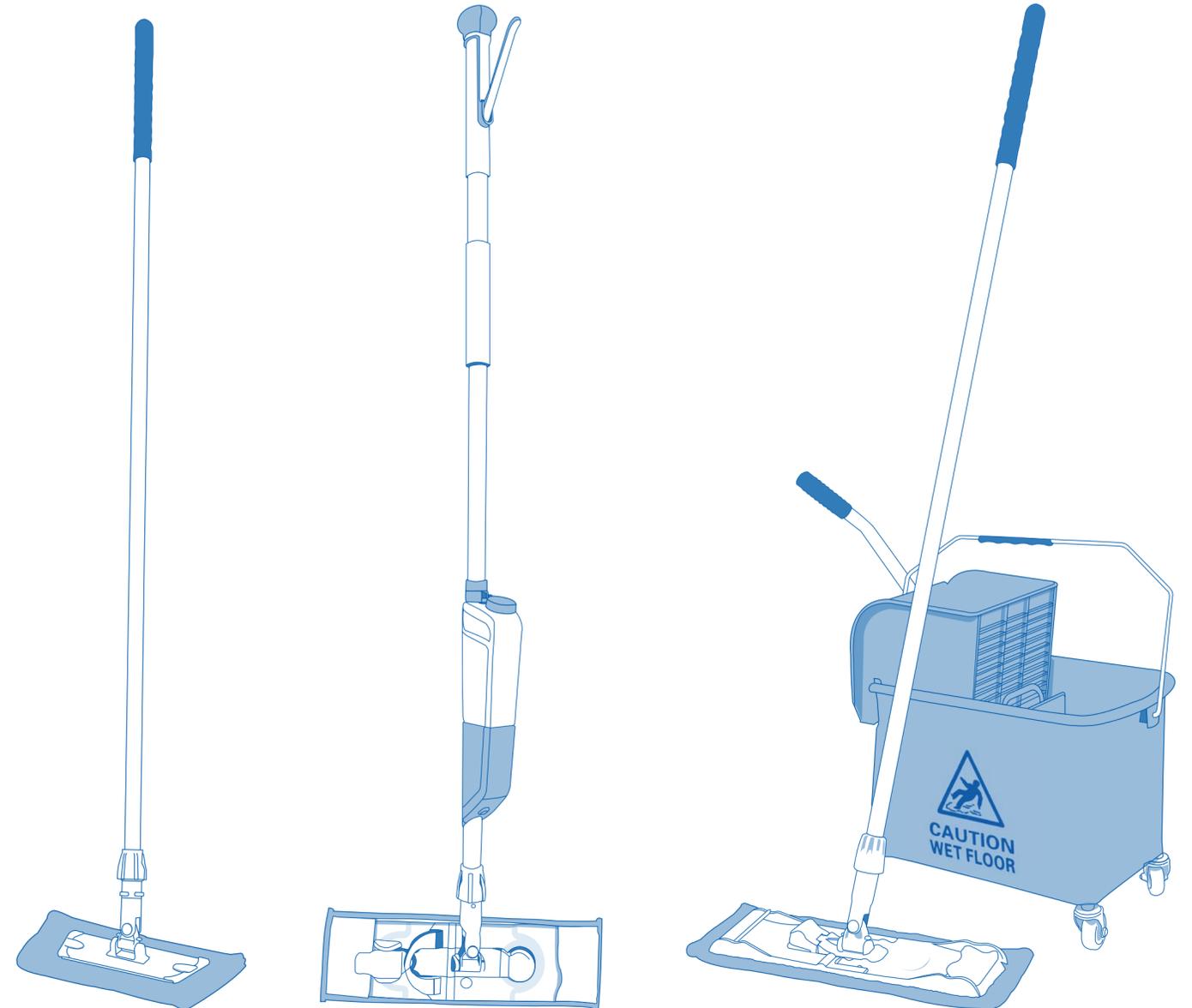
PICK ANY MOP...

FLAT MOPS

These are designed for quick response mopping but are also used more and more for general floor cleaning as microfibre heads prove to be so effective.

Flat mops reduce the amount of water you need to use, and so floors dry quicker too. Bucket-less flat mops, using a spray bottle or spray mop options, are available, along with bucket and wringer, and pre-soaked systems. There are also reusable and disposable options.

- Pro-mist is an innovative microfibre flat mop kit, which combines the new ergonomic Pro-mist spray handle and microfibre pads for effective, rapid response floor cleaning without the need for buckets or constant wringing out.
- Microspeedy is a professional quality, complete flat mop system which enables easier, faster and more effective cleaning, especially in high traffic environments where surfaces need to be cleaned and dried quickly.
- Microtex flat mop is made from microfibre. Its flat surface is effective in picking up dirt from floor surfaces. It's Velcro backing attaches onto the Microtex flat mop frame.



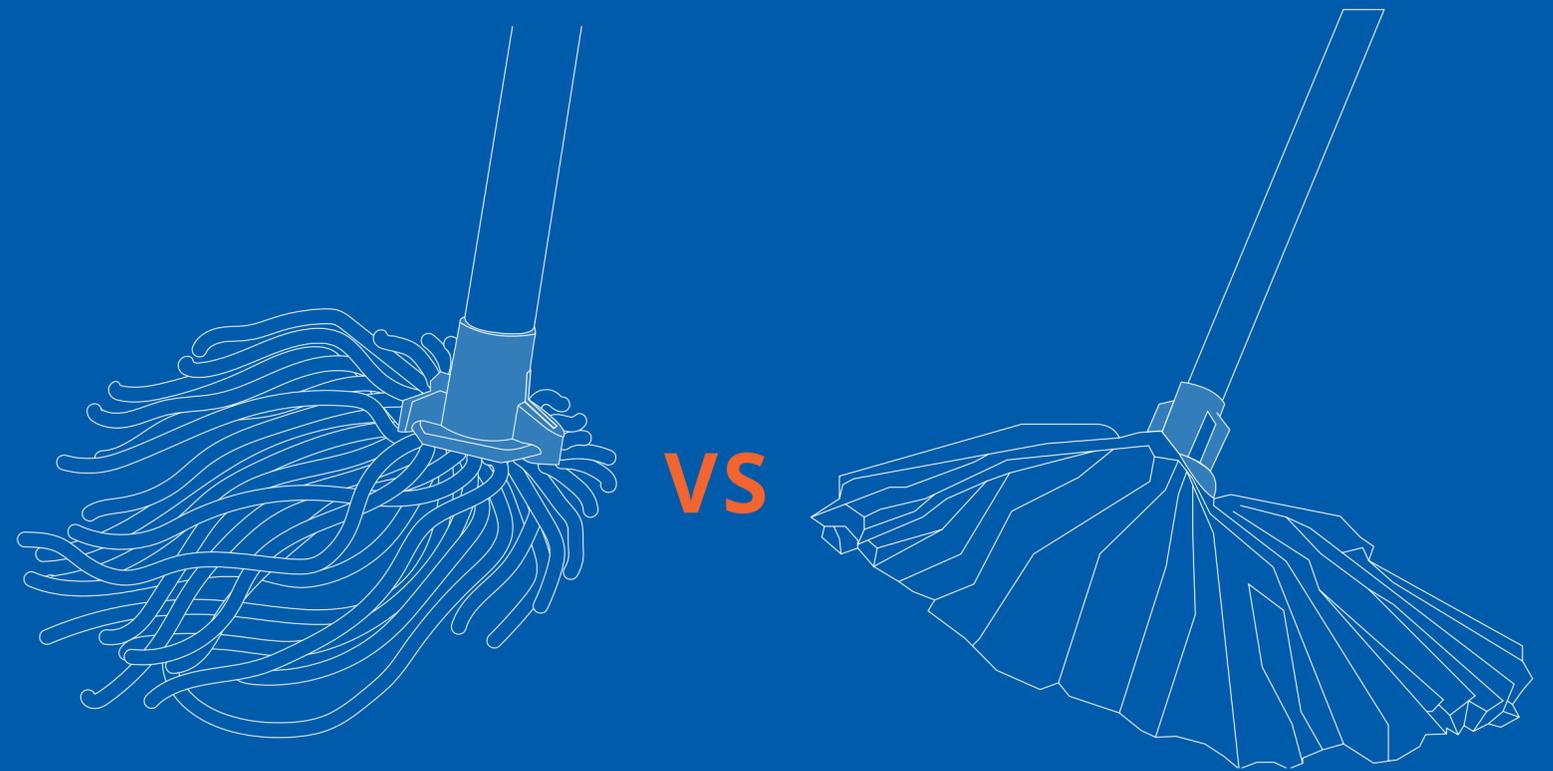
WHICH MOP SHOULD I CHOOSE?

For smooth floors use Big White or PY and for coarse surfaces cotton-rich or microfibre, which is less likely to pull over rough floors.

For reusable mopping use washable mops such as Robert Scott's Hygiemix mop that's made from a cotton and polyester blend, and also microfibre mops, both which retain their shape and strength over many washes.

Bear in mind that this depends on whether the site has washing facilities, or whether it's a requirement to clean and dispose, which increased during the Covid pandemic.

In general, we recommend using the Exel push-fit socket, which is designed to avoid the mop slipping on the handle as it's more secure than a screw-fit handle.



WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT MOP TYPES AND HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

The below is a summary of the different mop types and while mop types are often interchangeable it may help guide the decision on what mop is best to use for which area.

MATERIAL	MOP	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	FLOOR TYPE	SPECIALIST CLEANING
Cotton-rich (PY & Twine)	Socket	Semi-disposable	Small to medium	Any	The traditional cotton-rich yarn made from waste textile.
Hygiemix & Revolution ¹	Socket	Reusable	Small to medium	Any	Containing a tougher wearing blend of cotton and polyester, the circular stayflat mop improves floor contact, while the looped yarn prevents linting and tangling. Washed up to 60°C.
Biofresh	Socket	Reusable	Small to medium	Any	Hygiemix material with antibacterial additive.
Big White	Socket	Semi-disposable	Small to medium	Smooth	Lightweight, low-linting and highly absorbent. Fabric made out of spunlace; a polyester and viscose mix.
Refill	Socket	Depends on refill	Small to medium	Depends on refill	Eco-friendly reusable socket and disposable fabric.
Microfibre	Socket	Reusable	Small to medium	Any	Lifts 99% of germs with water. Holds up to 7 times its weight in water. Dries quicker than cotton.
Cotton-rich	Kentucky ²	Semi-disposable	Medium to large	Any	Traditional cotton-rich yarn for larger areas.
Microfibre	Flat	Reusable	Small to medium	Any	Lifts 99% of germs with water. Holds up to 7 times its weight in water. Dries quicker than cotton.
Microfibre	Flat	Disposable	Small to medium	Any	Lifts 99% of germs with water. Holds up to 7 times its weight in water. Dries quicker than cotton.
Sponge	Sponge	Semi-disposable	Small to medium	Smooth	Lint-free so ideal for cleanroom areas.

¹ The Hygiemix and Revolution mops are the same except the Hygiemix comes with a screw-fit socket and Revolution with an Exel socket.

² Kentucky mops also available with Hygiemix and Biofresh yarn and Big White spunlace.

ARE MOPS ECO-FRIENDLY?

The subject of sustainability is at the top of business agendas and is where manufacturers can deliver sustainable gains in manual mop systems.

Traditional mops can be eco-friendly and this depends on several factors such as source of product, transportation, recycled content and whether its recyclable at end of life, so a cradle to grave approach.

For example, most of Robert Scott's cotton-rich mops are now made from 100% recycled fabric sourced from waste textiles that we manufacture into CHSA accredited mops in the North West of England.

We've also developed a patented Refill mop comprising a reusable plastic socket and clip, along with a replaceable mop refill. When the mop reaches end-of-life, the user can recycle the fabric refill and reuse the plastic socket.

Another key environmental benefit when you consider modern flat mop systems that use microfibre pads is that they require far less water to clean. The pads can be pre-soaked in cleaning solution which reduces the requirement to change mop bucket water between areas to reduce cross-contamination.

These simple, sustainable innovations have in turn led to a re-appraisal of their value, despite these 'traditional' mops having been around for such a long time.



WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF TRADITIONAL MOPPING OVER MACHINES?

- Traditional mops are light, easier to use and simpler to move than machines so they're ideal for quick response cleaning such as spills and accidents. Add stairs into the equation and traditional mops make even more sense.
- Mops are super-absorbent and lightweight too so ideal clean small to large floor areas.
- Machines and robotic cleaners come with a hefty price tag, while traditional mops are much more affordable and also easier to track costs over time.
- With developments in shapes, sizes and fabrics, traditional mopping today makes even more sense than ever. The main considerations are the size of the space – smaller use socket mops and larger areas use Kentucky mops, followed by weights, and so lighter for smaller areas and heavier for larger.
- The introduction of microfibre into the mix now means the mop can lift 99% of germs even without cleaning agents, plus it has a static electric charge to capture dust.
- And sticking on microfibre, it's even more absorbent than cotton and can hold up to seven times its weight in water.
- No power cord or electricity needed – just a bit of elbow grease is all.
- Mops can be sustainable, especially the ones from Robert Scott that are made from 100% recycled fabric or, even better, the Refill socket mop where you reuse the socket with yarn refills.
- A traditional mop is great for capturing dust and dirt, it's also absorbent for spills, is much more cost effective and can also be good for the planet too if made from recycled materials, which are also widely recyclable.

HOW TO FIT AND REMOVE HANDLES TO SOCKET MOPS

While the screw-thread handle fits both screw-thread and push-fit sockets, we recommend the push-fit Exel socket as it provides a more secure fixing between mop head and handle.

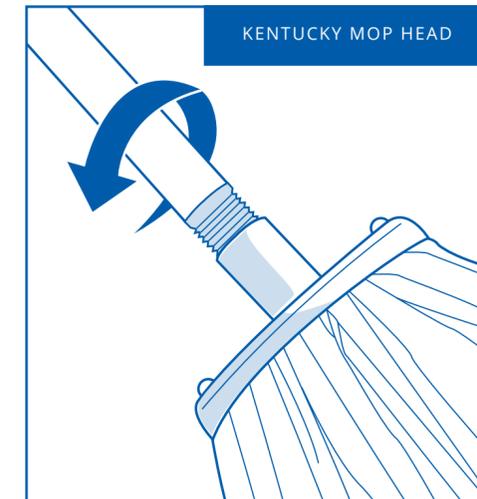
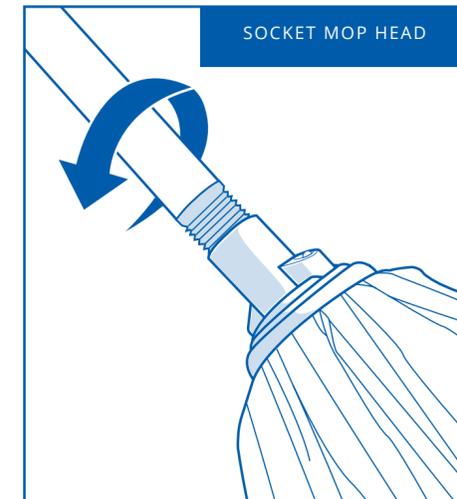
THE IMPORTANCE OF COLOUR CODING

Based on industry best practice, many of our products are colour coded for use in designated areas. When ordering simply provide the product code and select your colour preference.

-  *Blue: general lower risk area (excluding food areas).*
-  *Green: general food and bar use.*
-  *Red: Sanitary appliances and washrooms.*
-  *Yellow: Washbasins and other washroom surfaces.*

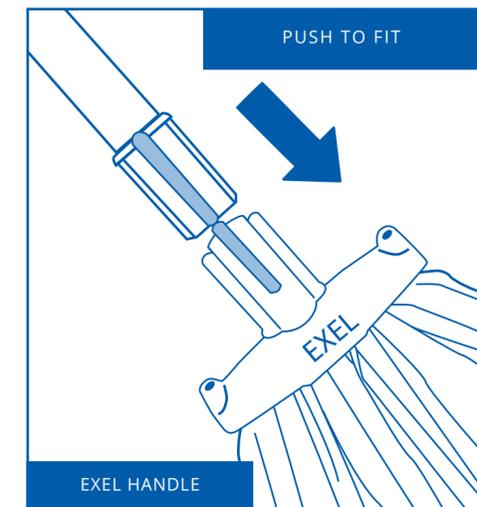
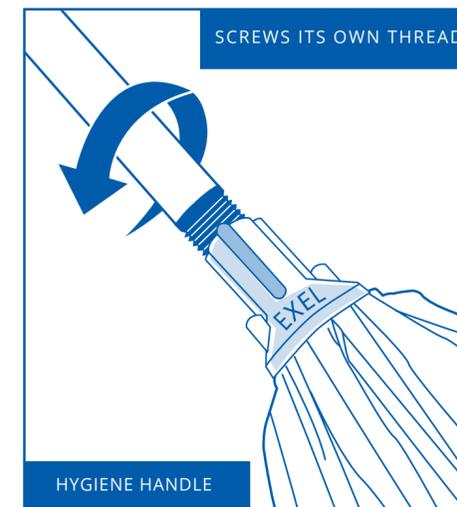


FITTING TO SCREW-THREAD MOPS



Carefully turn and tighten SCREW-THREAD handle into mop head - either Socket Mop or Kentucky Mop.

FITTING TO EXEL MOPS



Carefully twist the SCREW-THREAD handle into the Exel socket, or PUSH-FIT the Exel handle into the Exel mop head.



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