

# The Co-bot Floor Cleaning Guide

for Healthcare Applications Vol 2





- 01** Introduction
- 02** Introducing the Nilfisk Liberty autonomous floor scrubber dryer to your team and facility
- 03** Installation and deployment
- 04** Processes and best practices



# 01

## Introduction

If you're reading this guide, then you've already made the decision to welcome a Nilfisk Liberty autonomous floor scrubber dryer onto your cleaning team.

Congratulations! You're about to take a significant step toward improving your cleaning performance and efficiency, enhancing your brand reputation, and earning customer trust and loyalty.

This guide will help you get the most out of your investment. It will walk you through the steps you need to take to prepare your team and your space for autonomous cleaning. Our experts will also work with you to help you become fully operational with your new robotic partner as quickly as possible.

### Here's what you'll learn in this guide:

- How to successfully introduce and deploy the Nilfisk Liberty in your organization.
- Best practices for using autonomous cleaning solutions in hospitals and other healthcare facilities.
- Where to get help when you need it.

**Note:** This is Volume 2 of our guides to autonomous cleaning. For an overview on intelligent cleaning solutions and their benefits please refer to Volume 1 of our Co-bot Floor Cleaning Guide series.





## Cleaning in healthcare facilities

In the healthcare industry, cleaning isn't just business-critical, it's life-critical.

Healthcare-associated, or nosocomial, infections are the most frequent adverse event in healthcare delivery [worldwide](#), affecting hundreds of millions of patients every year. These infections result in both significant mortality and financial losses for health systems. [Many of these infections can be prevented by increasing the standard of environmental cleanliness.](#)

Especially with the elevated standards due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rigorous attention to cleanliness allows you to provide the most effective patient-centered care. It ensures a safe environment for treatment and recovery and limits the spread of infection.

Cleanliness also reassures patients and their visitors that your facility is safe. Our research has revealed that 95% of patients and visitors consider cleanliness in healthcare clinics and hospitals to be very or extremely important.



# 02

## Introducing the Nilfisk Liberty autonomous floor scrubber dryer to your team and facility

### Setting the stage for autonomous cleaning

In the Volume 1 guide, we identified three steps you should take before your new cleaning robot arrives for its first day on the job:

- Getting buy-in from stakeholders
- Assigning roles and responsibilities
- Setting cleaning goals and KPIs

Here, we'll expand on these crucial steps and also discuss how to prepare your facility for autonomous cleaning.



### Embrace the change at all levels

The number one factor that will determine the success of your autonomous cleaning implementation is the attitudes of your stakeholders. Everyone in your organization has a role to play in making the transition as smooth as possible:



**Leadership** is responsible for championing the change, as well as for developing the implementation plan and communicating it to all levels of the organization. This will set the tone for the entire project – if leadership is excited, everyone else will be too!



**Supervisors and site managers** need to prepare their teams and their operations for autonomy. One of the biggest reasons technology implementations fail is a lack of acceptance by the team. Supervisors and site managers can encourage acceptance by communicating thoroughly and frequently about issues such as what type of training will be offered, how cleaning schedules will change, and the overall benefits of having a robot as a team member.



Finally, the **operators** are the ones who will work alongside the autonomous solution every day. To do this competently and confidently, they will need to complete training and also have the opportunity to practice using the new machine.

## Define roles and responsibilities

The Nilfisk Liberty will function as an additional member of your cleaning team, and it will only be as successful as the team itself. Although the machine is easy and intuitive to operate, it is still an advanced piece of technology, so think carefully about who you task with using the equipment.

## The ideal employee to engage with an autonomous solution is:

- Highly motivated
- Interested in learning new things
- Trustworthy
- Experienced in floor scrubbing equipment and processes

Through research with our customers, we've identified the personas that are best-suited to programming and operating autonomous cleaning machines. In general, we recommend that the people assigned to program the Liberty have high tech proficiency and the ability to think strategically about cleaning processes. In terms of daily use, even people with low tech proficiency are typically able to operate the machine as long as they've been properly trained.

Here are a few questions to ask when assembling your autonomous cleaning team:

- **Is your staff ready to adapt to a new cleaning plan?**

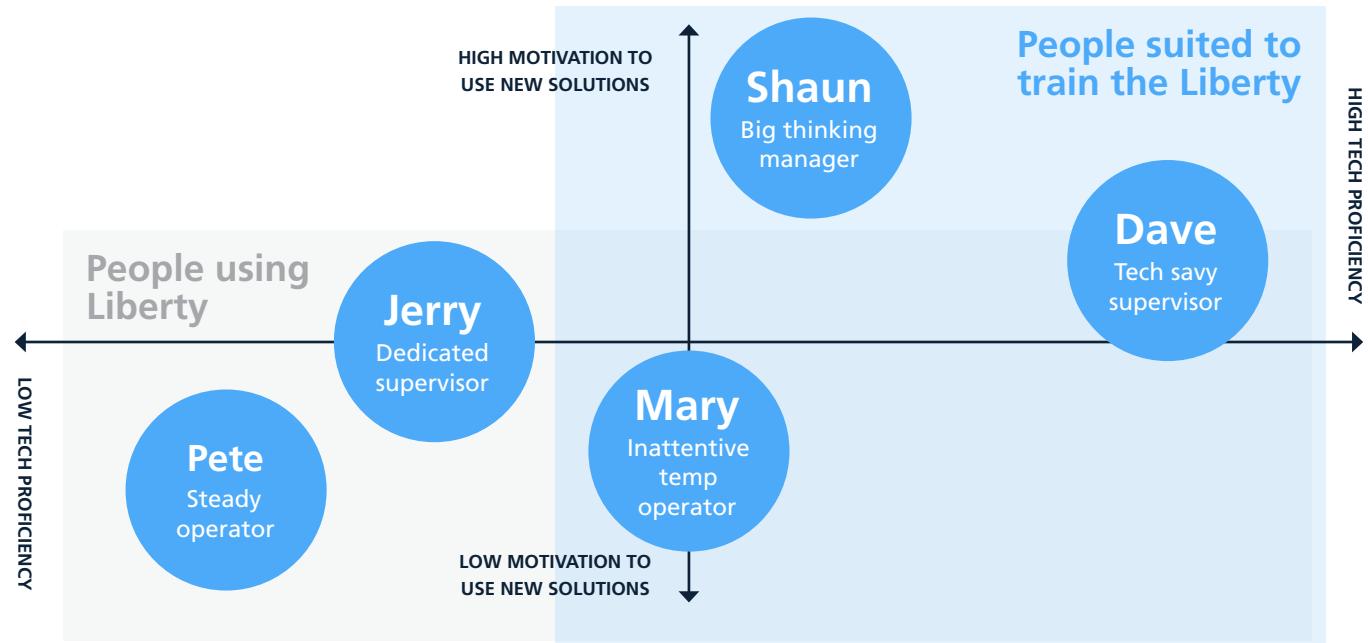
If not, then this is where you need to start. Change can be scary, so communicate with your team well in advance about what the new cleaning plan will look like. This is a good time to reinforce the message that the robot is not replacing anybody, but rather allowing your human workers to focus on higher-value and more engaging tasks.

- **Which operators are willing and able to handle new technology?**

The attitude of your team toward autonomous cleaning will play a large role in the success of the project. Choose operators who are excited about the new technology to lead the initiative.

- **If a challenge arises, who will be best able to work their way out of a problem?**

For the most part, autonomous machines work on their own. But sometimes they may need assistance, for example, if they encounter an unexpected obstacle. Ensure your operators are willing and able to support the machine in these situations.





## Top 5 healthcare cleaning challenges...and how the Nilfisk Liberty solves them



### Challenge: Labor shortages

The Liberty is like an additional member of your cleaning team – one who shows up to work every day and doesn't mind doing repetitive tasks.



### Challenge: Time pressure

The Liberty multiplies the cleaning power of your team. Every hour it's in use frees up an hour of a human cleaner's time to perform higher-value tasks – now more than ever.



### Challenge: Cost pressure

The Liberty allows you to minimize your costs by refocusing your labor resources on business-critical activities.



### Challenge: Inconsistent or low-quality cleaning results

The Liberty cleans in exactly the same way every day, achieving up to 99.5% coverage.



### Challenge: Increased hygienic standards

The Liberty does the boring work of cleaning the floors so your cleaning team can focus on the tasks necessary to keep passengers and employees safe.



## Prepare your facility

Once your team is assembled, it's time to prepare your facility for autonomous cleaning. This consists of two steps:

- Deciding what area your Liberty will clean (if you haven't already).
- Making any necessary layout adjustments.

## Deciding where to use your Liberty

The Liberty relieves members of your cleaning team from having to spend multiple hours walking behind or riding on a floor scrubber. However, it won't provide the same benefits in all spaces. For example, if you have one large area and several smaller areas to clean, you'll get more bang for your buck using the Liberty in the large area rather than the smaller ones.

By selecting the area to be cleaned strategically, you can position yourself well to immediately achieve the cleaning results you want as well as optimize your investment over time.



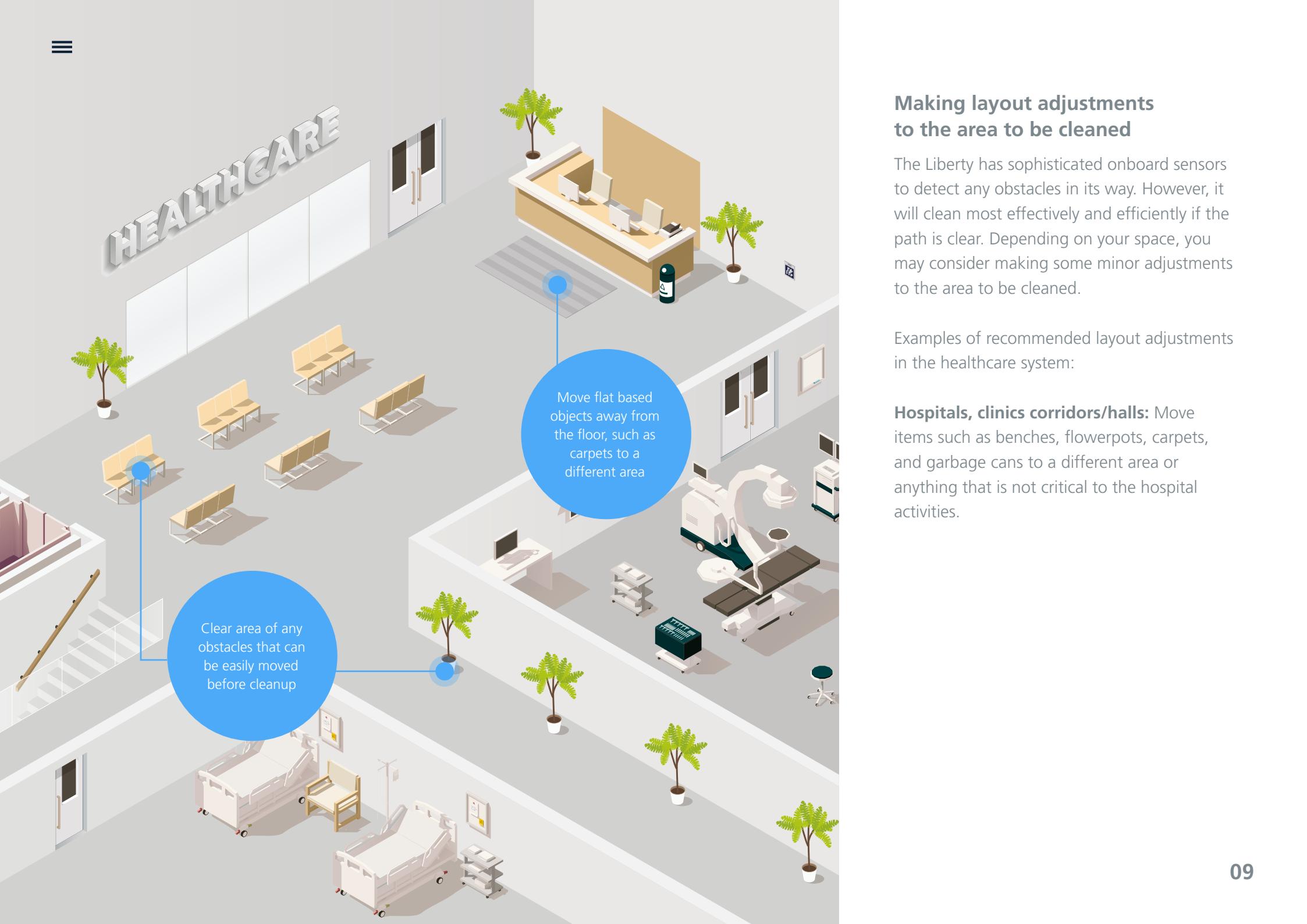
Here are a few questions to help you decide where to put your Liberty to work:

### **Is the total area to be scrubbed large enough to provide the desired return on investment (ROI)?**

Depending on your application and environment, if your team spends from 1 to 3 h a day in scrubbing the floors then you're a good candidate for autonomous cleaning. Even saving just a few hours every day will allow you to significantly increase cleaning productivity.

### **Is there typically heavy traffic in the area during cleaning?**

While the Liberty is safe to operate in areas where people are, heavy traffic will impact its productivity. We recommend using the machine when traffic is limited.



## Making layout adjustments to the area to be cleaned

The Liberty has sophisticated onboard sensors to detect any obstacles in its way. However, it will clean most effectively and efficiently if the path is clear. Depending on your space, you may consider making some minor adjustments to the area to be cleaned.

Examples of recommended layout adjustments in the healthcare system:

**Hospitals, clinics corridors/halls:** Move items such as benches, flowerpots, carpets, and garbage cans to a different area or anything that is not critical to the hospital activities.

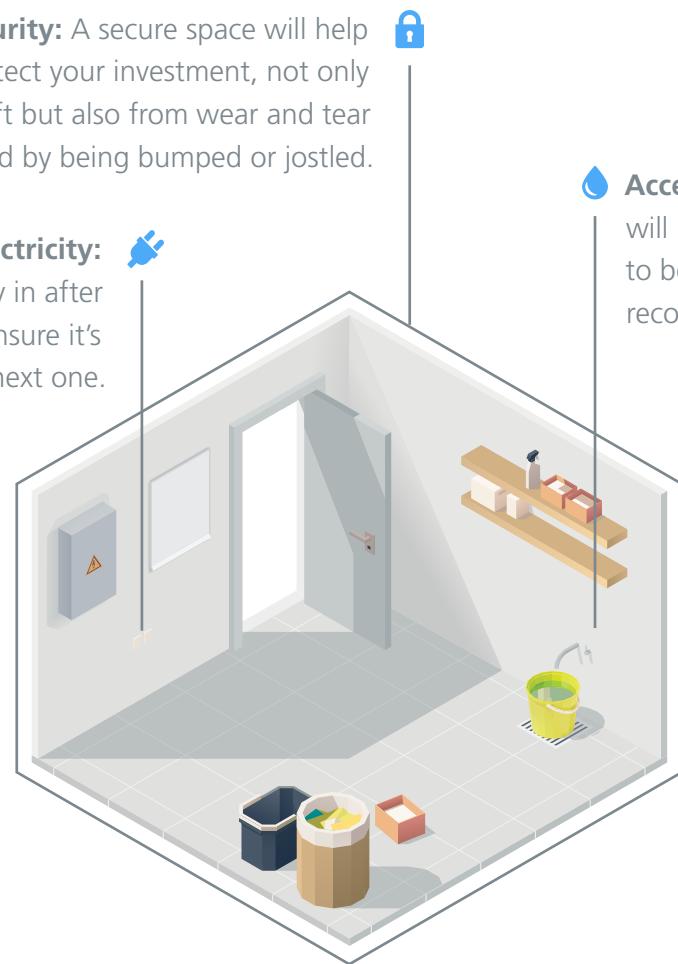
## Storing your Liberty autonomous floor scrubber

Most of this guide focuses on how you can use the Liberty to maximize your cleaning team's productivity and efficiency. To do that, you'll want to use your machine as much as possible!

However, you also need to have a plan for storing the Liberty when it's not in use. Here's what we recommend for your storage area:

**Security:** A secure space will help you protect your investment, not only from theft but also from wear and tear caused by being bumped or jostled.

**Access to electricity:**  
Plug your Liberty in after each shift to ensure it's ready for the next one.



**Access to water:** This will make it easy for you to both drain and fill the recovery tank.



### Set your cleaning goals

Having clear goals and key performance indicators (KPIs) will help you keep the project on track and all stakeholders on the same page. Our team will help you specify KPIs based on your facility, your current cleaning processes, and how you plan to use the Liberty.

# 03

## Installation and deployment



Following the steps above will ensure your team and your facility is ready to receive the Liberty and start using it as soon as possible. This section details the steps for deploying the machine in an airport. Your local Nilfisk team will be available to help you throughout the entire process.

### 1. Logistics

Once you've placed your order, a member of the Nilfisk team will contact you to organize the logistics of receiving, installing, and deploying your Liberty. They will schedule a call to organize a date for installation and provide you with a detailed overview of the entire process. In essence, purchasing an autonomous scrubber dryer is similar to purchasing a traditional floorcare machine but with additional support.

### 2. Preliminary information

To speed up the installation process, the Nilfisk team will collect information about your application. Here is the information you should have at the ready:



**Basic information about the cleaning area, including size and layout, with images if possible** – This will help your local service technician prepare plans and suggestions in advance.



**How many people will be authorized to use the machine** – The technician will use this information to order the correct number of keys for the different roles (i.e., supervisors, simple users).

### 3. Training

One of the benefits that sets Nilfisk apart from the competition is our extensive training programs.

We will provide access to an online course on the Liberty for your cleaning supervisor to complete in advance of the installation so that they will understand the machine and be able to facilitate adoption by the cleaning team. During the installation process, we will provide on-site training for your team.



## What happens on installation day?

The day you receive your Liberty will be an exciting one, especially if it represents your first experience with autonomous cleaning. Our team will collaborate with you to ensure that the newest member of your cleaning team is ready to get to work!



### Here's an overview of what you can expect:



#### 1. Initial setup

- Uncrate the unit and prepare it to start cleaning



#### 2. Product introduction

- What you need to know about the Liberty
- Location tags – where to place them and how to use them
- How to record, play, stop, and resume a cleaning plan
- When and where to use the different cleaning modes
- Digital tools setup



#### 3. Environmental considerations

- Best practices for your cleaning area
- Suggested cleaning plans

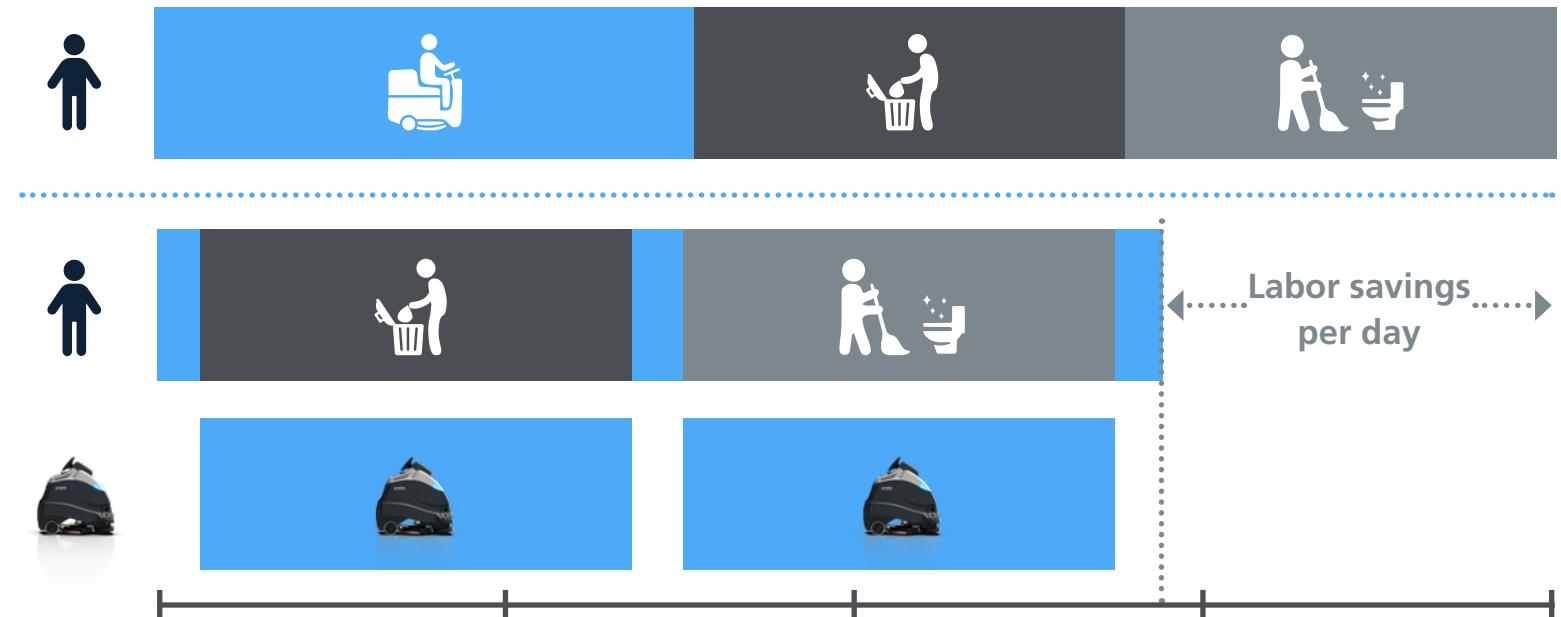


#### 4. Troubleshooting and service

- Most common issues and their solutions
- Service contacts and how to get help

## Scheduling cleaning tasks

Now, your team is assembled, your facility is prepared, and your Liberty is ready to get to work! How should you organize your cleaning schedule to maximize your productivity and optimize your labor resources?



We recommend assessing your jobs to be done and establishing a parallel schedule for autonomous and manual cleaning tasks. The table below shows a sample morning shift cleaning schedule for a hospital.

| Time                           | Hospital's employees                                | Liberty                   |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Morning shift<br>(6 – 9.30 am) | Prepare the scrubber                                | Floor scrubbing<br>Hall A |
|                                | Dust mopping (pre sweep)                            |                           |
|                                | Bathroom cleaning                                   |                           |
|                                | Refill the Liberty                                  |                           |
|                                | Disinfect and clean high touch points               | Floor scrubbing<br>Hall B |
|                                | Equipment cleaning and treatment-areas disinfection |                           |

# 04

## Processes and best practices

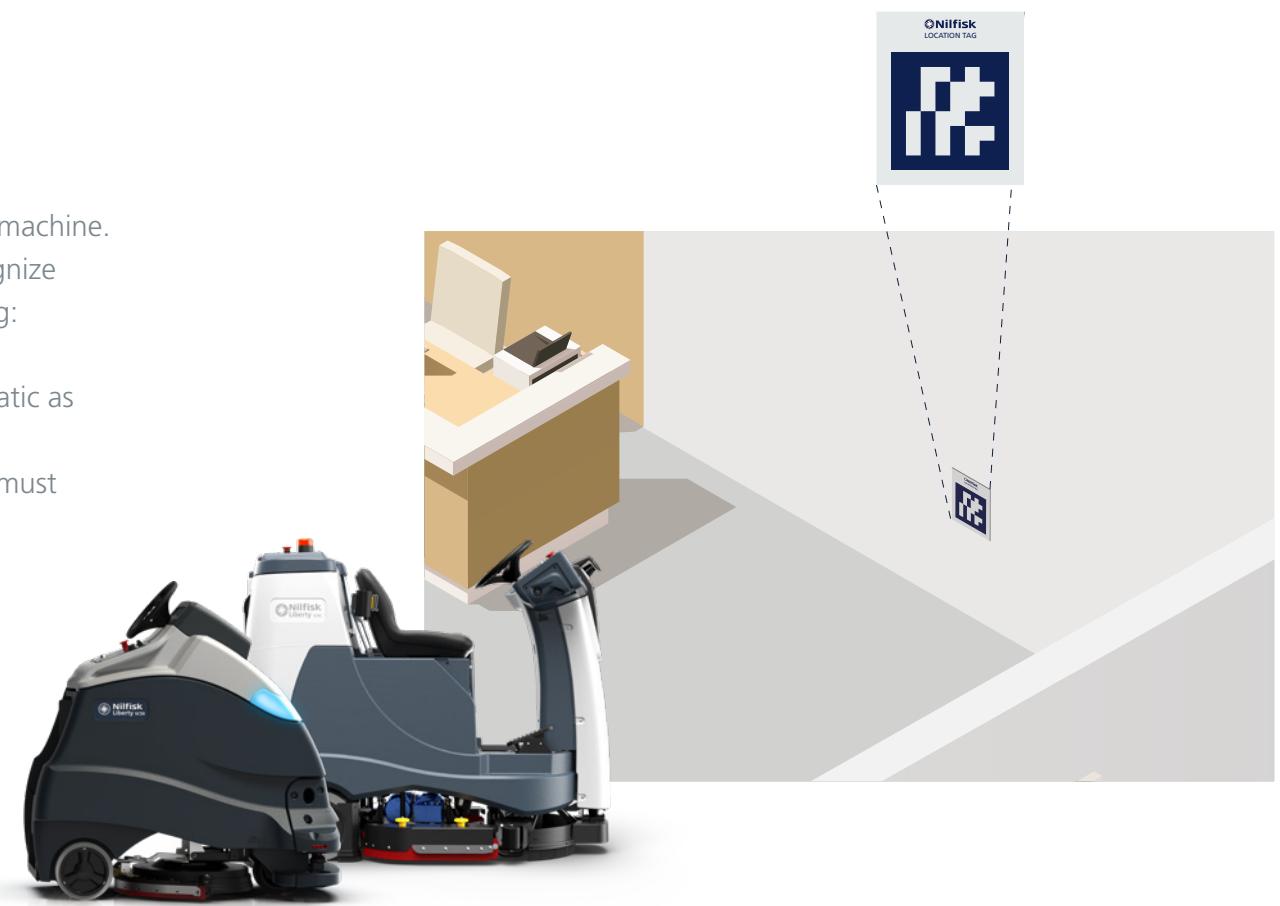
### How to create an effective cleaning plan

#### 1

##### Placing the location tag

The Location tag (QR code) is the anchor of the machine. Once scanned, it will allow the machine to recognize where it is in the cleaning area and start cleaning:

- The area around the tag should remain as static as possible and free of obstacles.
- Do NOT remove the tag. If you do, all plans must be recreated.



# 2

## Recording the cleaning plan

Once you've placed the location tag, you will be ready to start creating your cleaning plans.

Divide the facility into cleaning zones based on when you want to run the machine. For example, you may want to touch up the floors in low-traffic areas during the day and save the bulk of cleaning in high-traffic areas for after visiting hours.

### Tips for recording your cleaning plans

Always take flared turns when driving in and out of the corridors, as well as when making U-turns. Do not cut the corners.

Stay clear of complex objects and spaces, including:



Flat-based objects (e.g., mats or infusion stands with a flat base lower than 10 cm).



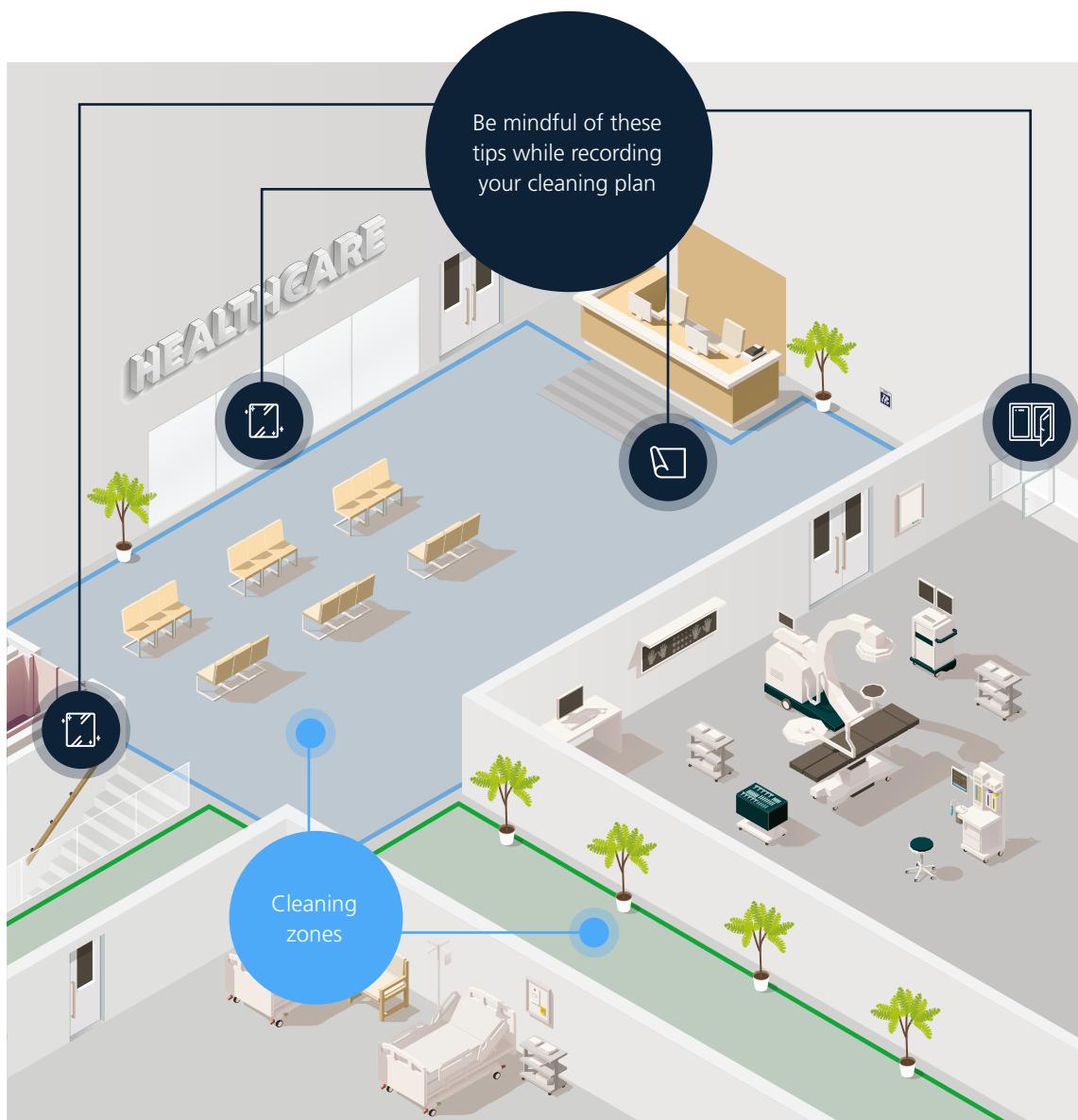
Overhanging objects (leafy plants, open windows etc.).



Spaces that are too small for the machine to turn around (e.g., the machine needs to have enough space to turn at the ends of corridors).



Reflective objects (e.g. trash cans, shiny poles), drops (e.g. staircase, elevator shafts), glass panels (e.g. framless glass).



# 3

## How to play back your cleaning plans

- Remove all obstacles (boxes, unnecessary items, fallen objects, etc.) from the cleaning path.
- Adjust any items protruding in the cleaning area (open windows, leafy plants etc.).
- Drive the Liberty to the starting point and press the start button.

## What to do in case of a problem

Consult the support material and online training covered during the installation phase (digital guides, service posters and online trainings).

### Any more issues?

Contact your Nilfisk service representative.

## Tips for playing back your cleaning plans



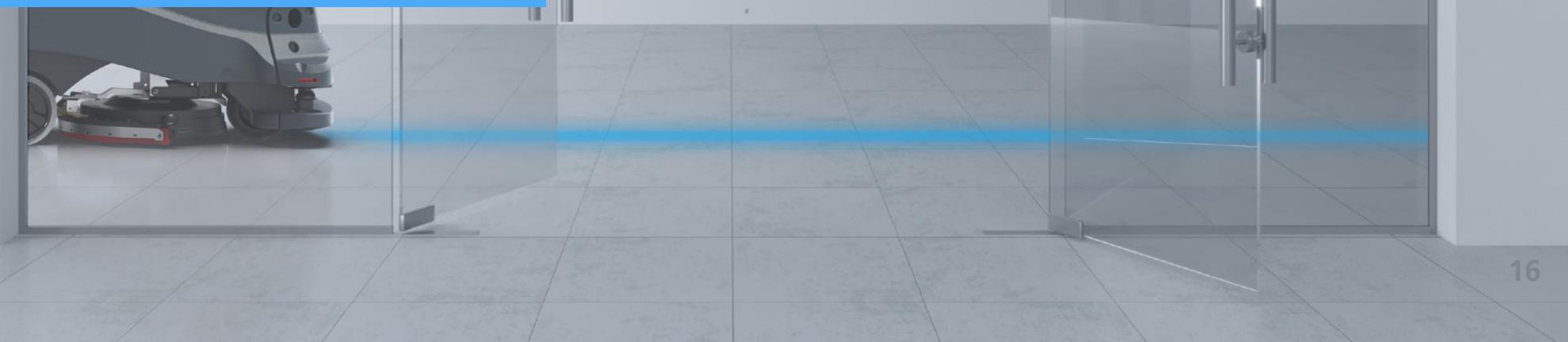
Before playing back your cleaning plans, make sure you have defined your cleaning schedule so you operators know what manual activities to perform while the autonomous machine is working.



Clearing the cleaning path before you start the machine will help you maximize the productivity and performance of your autonomous solution.



If your cleaning area has changed significantly, create a new cleaning path for that section of the facility.



# Make your business smarter

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