

Eliminate the Broom

Murray Spangler, a department store janitor in Canton, Ohio, decided the only way to overcome the boredom of his job, which basically consisted of sweeping floors, was to find a more innovative way to do it. His job also made him wheeze and cough, which was added incentive to seek out a better method.

Why not eliminate the broom? he thought. And then a second thought came: Maybe there's another way to get the dust up. Maybe even suck up the dust.

Spangler's questions led him to invent a crude, but workable, vacuum cleaner. He then sought out an old friend in the leather business to finance the manufacturing of his invention. The man's name was H.W. Hoover. Not only did Hoover Vacuum Cleaners become very popular, but "hoovering" became -- for at least one generation -- synonymous with sweeping floors.

You may be working with the latest technology today, but even so, there is always a better way to perform the basic tasks of your job. Think creatively about your work. The next great invention might just be one idea away!

--Beecher Hunter