

Sanding & Finishing

Preparing and applying a wear resisting coating



1. GENERAL

The following recommendations are designed to be used in conjunction with the relevant Australian Standard. Product manufacturer's instructions and recommendations should be adhered to at all times.

- a. All flooring nails to be punched and nail holes filled unless otherwise requested.
- b. Floor to be fine sanded.
- c. Edging to be done correctly and without undue scalloping. Sanding marks should not be visible while standing.
- d. Corners to be scraped to an even surface and sanded to a fine finish.
- e. Coating to have sufficient build and applied evenly without lap marks or missed areas.
- f. Coating to be relatively free of contamination.

Note: The Association suggests that acceptable contamination be as follows:

- (i) Not visible whilst standing
- (ii) Only visible at certain angles whilst viewing into the light

2. MARKS & STAINS

- a. All Sanding & finishing is done by hand controlled tools/machinery and as such, subtle evidence of this will be evident in the floor.
- b. Chatter marks or Striations can occur on timber flooring. Instability and vibration in the floor can cause chatter marks. This vibration will vary depending on bearer size and spacing and type, thickness & density of timber.
- c. Depending on age, use & abuse, some stains may not be removed.
- d. Deep cuts from previous coverings, such as carpet, may not be removed.

3. COATINGS/FINISHES

The Association recommends that only commercially accepted Quality Finishes are applied and used which are suitable for the surface at all times and that the manufacturer's recommendations as to application are carried out.

- a. **Rejection** of coating, which is caused by contaminants leeching out of the flooring, is an acceptable finish provided the contractor has taken reasonable measures to minimise the problem. eg.
Sealed timber with fast dry sealer or similar, and once rejection was evident, having used anti-rejection coatings or anti-rejection additives or followed Manufacturer's recommendations covering such situations.
- b. **Delamination** of the surface coatings due to movement on side and end joints is acceptable.
- c. **Quilting**, Surface coatings will fall in at the joints and cracks of strip and parquetry floors.
- d. **Circular marks** or swirl marks caused by rotary sanders is a normal occurrence.

- e. **Finish.** A degree of contamination in the final coat is unavoidable. It is to be expected that the contractor has taken reasonable measures to minimise the risk of contamination. The final coat may still contain some foreign materials. Contamination will vary from site to site, depending on local atmospheric conditions and activity of other trades, particular earth works, as well the condition of the floor itself and the ability to be able to seal the area effectively.

The following are some of the reasons why contamination will vary from site to site:

- i. Strip floors with excessive gaps between boards.
 - ii. Poorly fitted skirting boards.
 - iii. Draughty houses. (Heating & cooling vents can increase the incidence).
 - iv. Other trades working in or around job site.
 - v. Pets
 - vi. Contamination caused by insects becoming trapped in the finish
(These are not the responsibility of the contractor).
 - vii. Recently removed or installed carpets.
- f. If the edges of a floor were previously sealed there will be a two-tone effect when sanded and new coats applied.
- g. "Down Lighting" will exaggerate irregularities

4. CLEAN UP

The Association suggest that removal of all waste material be discussed between contractor and customer. This includes sawdust, used sand paper, empty containers, etc. The contractor in accordance with local environmental laws should dispose of excess coating material. The contractor should leave the site in a "Tradesman-like" manner.

5. GAP FILLING

The Association suggests that the decision of whether gaps should be filled or left unfilled should be decided between contractor and customer. Gap and crack filling of timber floors, if required, should be a general colour match. Gaps should be cleared of all foreign matter where possible. eg. dirt, old filler, etc. unless otherwise agreed between customer and contractor.

6. RE-COATING

Re-coating of a previously re-coated floor cannot be guaranteed. This is due to possible contamination of the floor surface. Rejection or delamination can occur.

The contractor should:

- a. Where possible, ascertain the type of existing coating and the possible existence of contamination due to cleaning products, which may have been used.
- b. Thoroughly wash floor with cleaning solution. Special strippers will be required.
- c. Completely sand existing finish back to a dull surface.
- d. Re-coat floor with a product that has the manufacturer's recommendation as a product suitable for this application.

7. NAIL PUNCHING

"Flooring Nails" are to be punched 3-4mm below the "finished" surface of the floor using a suitable punch. Filler for nail holes should be of a general colour match. Oil, water or spirit-based fillers are acceptable if used according to manufacturer's directions.