

FLOOR FINISHES

WATER BASED ACRYLIC URETHANES CONTAINING OIL RESINS:

Similar to standard water-based acrylic urethanes, but with better abrasion resistance (same as solvent type), some yellowing with age, and slightly better colour enhancement of dark and red timbers. Still dries in three hours .

SOLVENT-BASED POLYURETHANES CONTAINING OIL RESINS:

Sometimes described as “moisture-curing”, “oil-based” and “solvent based”. Hydrocarbon solvents such as Turpentine and Kerosene; some odour. Highly abrasion resistant – almost as good as two-pack catalyst hardened type. Slow drying – recoat after 8 to 24 hours depending on brand. Three coats, sanding before each, takes minimum of three days. Curing takes three to six days. Yellows (darkens) noticeably with age. High gloss and low sheen (satin). Low propensity for edge-bonding of boards (so good for T and G floors) Refinishing usually involves removal of entire coating on floor before recoating, as the old finish if left will be noticeably darker than the new in areas where the new is over bare timber. Tends to strongly enhance the colour of dark or red timbers (Jarrah). The gloss version enhances the colour more than the low sheen version.

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TWO PACK POLYURETHANES:

Because of their tendency to bond boards together (edge bonding) and interfere with the subsequent shrinkage of boards, two-pack coatings are not recommended for tongue and groove flooring (both conventional and stick-down overlay).

In both conventional tongue and groove board floors, and in stick down overlay floors, each board is domiciled in position by glue and/or nails and will shrink and expand around its own centre line. Edge bonding – the term for the inadvertent gluing of boards together at their edges – prevents this normal individual cycle of shrinkage and expansion occurring. The end result will be loud cracking as the boards shrink and break the bond (the most benign result), boards with a weakness being pulled apart by their abutting boards as they shrink (the weak board will split), and “clumping”, with large, obvious gaps between groups of solidly glued boards instead of the usual equal distribution of almost invisible contraction gaps across the entire floor.

Two pack coatings are only marginally more abrasion resistant than single pack solvent coatings, cost more, are more complicated to prepare, and are more difficult to recoat as the old coating has in most cases to be removed in its entirety before re-coating. Gloss level is very high; some brands have satin as well. Tend to yellow a bit with age. Good for parquetry.

Beautiful, Renewable, Timber

Timber Advice and Display Centre



Hours of Business

Monday to Friday 9.00am—5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am—5.00pm
Sunday Closed

Flooring Information

A SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE
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CLEANING TIPS

Wipe up liquid spills promptly.

Sand, dirt and grit should be removed to prevent surface scratching.

Using a vacuum or broom and then wiping over with a slightly damp mop or electrostatic mop should provide the necessary regular care.

If you have spills or sticky soiling which cannot easily be removed. Use a damp mop with a detergent specifically designed for timber floors.

Dilute the detergent to the manufacturers instructions. Remember to use a damp but not dripping wet mop.

A little Methylated spirits on a damp cloth will also assist the removal of stubborn grime or marks on your timber floor.

Over wetting your floor can change the moisture balance and cause your floor to expand. In some cases this may result in cupping.

Use Door mats at the entry points to your home and clean them regularly, this will help to keep the dirt out of your home.

GENERAL CARE

Moving furniture over floors can lead to surface damage. Fit protective pads to the legs of chairs and tables so they can be moved easily without the risk of scuffing.

Pick up the furniture as opposed to dragging it over your timber floor to avoid denting your beautiful timber floor.

Full length windows, large glass areas and skylights which admit direct sunlight can create sunroom conditions which can result in shrinkage. Also direct sunlight can cause a change of colour to your timber. Move rugs periodically and protect your flooring from direct sunlight with curtains or blinds.

High heel shoes can dent your timber floor. Care should be taken to remove shoes that have exposed heels with sharp points, to avoid damaging your timber floor.

If shutting the house up for extended periods, for example going on holidays, close all curtains and blinds to avoid creating abnormal humidity conditions which can cause your floor to shrink or expand.

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TUNG OIL:

Tung oil is obtained from a tree that grows in China. The oil is only one of the components in most manufactured "Tung Oil" finishes; other components are hydrocarbon solvents and resins. This finish produces a moderately abrasion-resistant surface. Gloss level from flat to semi-gloss depending on number of coats. Not tintable but bare floor may be stained, if required, with a solvent-based stain prior to coating with Tung Oil.

WATER BASED ACRYLIC URETHANES NOT CONTAINING OIL RESINS:

"Solvent" is mostly water; drying is fast and odourless.

High level of abrasion resistance; almost as good as single-pack solvent type.

Fast drying – recoat in three hours. Apply three coats in one day.

Curing takes three days.

Does not yellow (darken) with age, or not discernibly.

High gloss and low sheen (satin) in all brands except Sikkens (low sheen only).

"High gloss" in water-based is not as shiny as high gloss in solvent based.

Low propensity for edge-bonding of boards (so good for T and G floors)

Tends to tone-down colour intensity of dark or red timbers (e.g. Jarrah).

Easy to spruce up after years of service: just vacuum, wash with cleaner, sand to roughen surface and apply one coat. Areas sanded back to bare timber will match the rest of the floor in colour because the coating will not have darkened with age.

