

URETHANE

COATINGS

POLYURETHANE SPECIALISTS SINCE 1979

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

MAINTENANCE OF DUOTHANE & MONOTHANE FLOORS

INTRODUCTION

While polyurethanes are widely recognised as the most durable surface coatings for floors, they are inevitably subject to wear, particularly when any gritty substance is introduced onto the floor. Grit will act in the same manner as sandpaper, and large particles of grit under shoe soles or heavy furniture will not only cut through the coating but damage the timber or cork as well.

Furthermore, it is important to understand that the average polyurethane coating system is only about 120 microns (0.12 mm) thick, and therefore cannot prevent indentation of timber when subjected to excessive forces such as occasioned by stiletto heels or certain castor wheels. The incidence of indentation will also be directly related to the density of the timber or cork; that is hardwoods such as Brushbox or Blackbutt are much less predisposed to indentation than softer timbers such as Baltic Pine or Cypress Pine.

USING THE FLOOR

Over the first week after the coating is dry it continues to cure – during this period avoid heavy foot traffic by removing shoes before walking on the floor. Initially (particularly if walking on the floor with bare feet) you may notice footprints, often attributed to a 'bloom' from oily timbers. After a few weeks and a number of washes this will gradually stop.

The key to successful maintenance of polyurethane treated floors is the exclusion of any gritty substance from the floor. This can be achieved by the placement of a door mat outside each entrance and if possible a softer mat immediately inside each door – this will assist to remove any sand, grit and small stones from shoe-soles/feet, that when walked over the floor is abrasive, acting like sandpaper.

Use runners over high traffic areas, and to further enhance the floor you may choose to place a rug or mat over it. However, please note that over time the colour of the uncovered section will become slightly darker than the covered section. If possible, every few months, move the rug or mat a short distance (50 to 150mm), rotating in each direction of the compass – 1st North, 2nd East, 3rd South, 4th West. This will assist to 'blur' the contrast between the lighter and darker sections of the floor. Do not put rugs or mats on floors for at least four weeks from the completion of the coating job. Like many finishing or covering products, exposure to direct sunlight will cause discolouration of the floor. To reduce fading and discolouring, filter direct sunlight with curtains or blinds.

REPLACING FURNITURE

When replacing furniture or moving furniture do not drag it across the floor, and when wheeling heavy items (e.g. refrigerators) spread a 'drop sheet' directly over the floor and then place panels of masonite on-top of the drop sheet, on which to roll the wheels (often, even if using carpet or mats the heavy weight will leave marks on the fresh coating). The first seven to ten days after the coating is completed are the most critical; during this period, ensure extra care is taken while the coating ages to its maximum hardness.

It is also imperative that protective felt pads are fitted under legs of chairs and furniture.

MAINTAINING THE FLOOR

Regularly wipe over the floor with an antistatic mop or sweep with a soft bristle broom. We caution against the use of vacuum cleaners, particularly if the bristles are worn as the cleaning head may then scratch the floor. The frequency of cleaning is dependent on the level of traffic, amount of grit carried onto the floor, and activity of children, and pets etc.



WASHING THE FLOOR

To routinely clean your floor, mix up to one cup of Methylated Spirit (alternatively White Vinegar) into three Litres (1/3 full bucket) of hot water, and mop the floor, regularly rinsing the mop. If the floor is particularly dirty, wash first with a non-abrasive detergent then clean with the Methylated Spirit and water solution – this will prevent streaking and smear marks (often very noticeable on a high gloss floor) that sometimes remain after use of detergents and/or household cleaners.

FLOOR POLISHES

Under normal domestic conditions a polyurethane coating will last many years. However, in commercial locations or areas exposed to high traffic levels, it may be necessary to protect the coating with a sacrificial floor polish, i.e. the polish will take the brunt of the wear, and can easily be replenished when necessary. Suitable polishes are those based on a metal-link acrylic polymer, which can be readily removed by washing with ammonia solution if there is an excessive build up in non-traffic areas. These polishes are also suitable in restoring the gloss of a polyurethane floor which has not been excessively worn, but may have scuffed badly. Commercially available floor polishes suitable for polyurethane coated timber and cork floors are – Urethane Coatings **Purashine (Gloss or Satin)**, Johnsons' One-Go, Reckitts' Long Life or Peerless Gemini.

WARRANTY:

Written claims to be made to seller within 7 days of goods received. Urethane Coatings (UC) warrants its' products to be free of defects in materials, and within their manufacturing specification but makes no warranty as to application and installation. As methods of application and on site conditions are beyond the manufacturers' control and can affect performance, UC makes no other warranty, expressed or implied, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Urethane Coatings' sole obligation shall be, at its option, to replace, or refund the purchase of the quantity of Coatings proved to be defective and UC shall not be liable for any loss or damage including incidental or consequential damages arising from the use of UC products.

Notice to Reader

Urethane Coatings make no representation as to the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in this Technical Data Sheet. It is the user's obligation to evaluate and use this data, and to comply with all relevant Commonwealth, State and Local Government laws and regulations. Urethane Coatings shall not be responsible for loss, damage or injury resulting from reliance upon or failure to adhere to any recommendations contained herein, from abnormal use of the material, or from any hazard inherent in the nature of the material.

END of TECHNICAL DATA SHEET