



03. Technical Specifications

03.11b POLYURETHANE

Modern polyurethane finishes (one or two can plastics) provide a smooth, hard and very glossy surface and are suitable for use on some wood floor systems. However, when used over any T & G wood floor system, there is serious risk of “edge bonding” or “clumping” occurring. This phenomenon occurs when these finishes flow into the tongue and groove joint between boards and glue the boards together. Then when natural shrinkage occurs, boards “edge bond” and tend to “clump” together causing unsightly gaps between some boards at irregular spacing and can cause splitting to occur both within boards and at groove joints.

For this reason no polyurethane coating is recommended for use over any site-finished T & G wood product.

NWFAA recommend that all T & G floors are best finished with selected oil based finish. Please speak to your NWFAA “Specialist” Wood Floor Contractor for specific advice about your particular project.

To reduce the possibility of any negative effect happening to your floor, great care should be taken to ensure that before coating, the flooring timber has reached the correct moisture content for the specific location and that the environment remains within a narrow moisture content range. In some high stress locations this could necessitate the design and installation of humidity control equipment.

When restoration of an area such as around doorways or hallway is required, generally the entire floor area will require sanding to remove the original polyurethane coating before a new coat can be applied.

High gloss surfaces also reflect more glare from windows, particularly where glass areas extend to the floor and the high reflection qualities will nearly always highlight dust particles, even just after cleaning. Over recent years there has been an increasing trend towards reduced gloss finishes to reduce reflected glare

Should you wish to use a polyurethane finish on timber floors, it is strongly recommended that you obtain a copy of the State Forests of NSW leaflet titled ‘Polyurethane Finishes on Timber Floors’ available from State Forests, TDA or your NWFAA flooring supplier / installer.