



Bulletin Number: 406

PEELING FLOORS

Hardwood floors that have evidence of bad adhesion should not be considered for traditional screen and recoat operations. The reason for this is simple. If somewhere below the surface there is an interface between two layers of urethane that are not properly bonded together, adding another coat on top won't do anything to stop the peeling. It is possible even that the application of a fresh coat will aggravate the poorly adhering layers and make the problem seem worse. The solution to a peeling urethane coated hardwood floor is to remove all of the coating involved. Due to the very high chemical and abrasion resistance of urethane coatings, the prospect of removing only the surface layers is not practical. By the time you employ abrasives that are strong enough to remove a few layers of urethane, you will be using abrasives strong enough to remove all of the urethane (sanding all the way down to the bare wood).

Therefore complete sanding down to bare wood is really the only appropriate solution to a hardwood floor that is experiencing peeling.

What causes it and how can it be prevented? Peeling is caused by the application of a coat to a surface that should have been roughened first. The chemical resistance of a cured urethane is so high that it is the increased surface area of a roughened floor that helps the new coat bond properly to the previous coating. Naturally the surface must be cleaned properly also, not dusty or impregnated with cleaning compounds.

The only exception to the rule (that the previous coating should be roughened) is when the previous coat was applied only recently. Fresh coats that haven't cured completely are capable of being recoated without roughening. If a fresh coat of urethane is allowed to cure **16 hours or more**, it should be roughened up prior to the application of the next coat. After 16 hours it will have cured sufficiently to make bonding by another coat challenging. Lightly scrubbing with a maroon pad on an autoscrubber using only plain water is a reasonably fast way to 'knock down' the shine from yesterdays final coat before the first coat today.

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SINCE 1844



To Whom It May Concern:

Prior to the application of Buckeye Reflections Wood Coatings it has been determined that your current floor has some areas that are already showing adhesion problems in the form of peeling, flaking, and/or blistering. This suggests that at some point in the past, this floor was not correctly prepared. The evidence of peeling may be limited at this time, but that doesn't mean the problem is an isolated one. It is possible, even probable, that the peeling problem will not only continue to show itself, but will get worse over time.

If Buckeye Reflections coatings are applied on top of an existing adhesion concern, any peeling in the future is not necessarily due to the application of the fresh finish, but most likely is due to the existing problem layer underneath. Buckeye International recommends that floors with existing adhesion problems be totally sanded down and recoated in order to eliminate these problems.

If you wish to screen and recoat the floor without totally sanding it down with Buckeye Reflections coatings, it is understood that Buckeye is not responsible for any peeling problems from the previous poorly adhered coatings.

Signature of Facility Manager