
WEARING OF POLYURETHANE COATED FLOORS

What is the 'normal' life expectancy of a polyurethane coated timber floor?

The life expectancy for a floor coating is influenced by the:

- amount of foot traffic
- surrounding environment and
- regularity and appropriateness of floor maintenance

A 'normal' life expectancy may be 5 to 10 years before a recoat would be required.

However, this could be as low as 6 months (for the dance floor of the No.1 night spot in town) to 20 years or more (for a lesser used room).

What Causes Wear?

All floor surfaces exhibit a wearing down of the surface over time. Polycure Floor Coatings are amongst the most wear resistant floor coatings currently available.

Wearing of a polyurethane coated floor surface is caused by:

1. Abrasion Or Scratching

Dust, grit and dirt particles are carried mainly by underfoot but also by the action of airflow into the room.

The relative movement of these 'abrasive' particles between feet (also mats, chair legs, etc) and the floor surface, leads to a 'scouring' or 'grinding' action which causes a scratch type abrasion effect on the Polyurethane surface.

2. Scuffing (Marring)

A 'dragging' action of a hard surface edge across the floor will lead to a 'chatter' effect, which as well as an unsightly scuff mark, also means some wear has taken place.

3. Chemical Attack

Although extremely chemically resistant, some powerful cleaners or solvents can weaken the Polyurethane surface.

A localised gloss loss is symptomatic of chemical wear.

How to maximise the life of an polyurethane coated feature floor ?

1. Do Not Vacuum

The vacuum head can cause floor scratching from abrasive particles that may be pressed against the

floor.

Sweep with an electrostatic dust mop, fringe mop or soft bristled broom prior to wet mopping if necessary.

2. Minimise Sources of Abrasive Particles Onto The Floor

Encourage use of a fibre outdoor foot wipe mat prior to entering the premises. Back this up with a finer weave matt just inside the premises as a final wipe.

Remember most importantly to regularly shake accumulated abrasive particles out of these mats.

3. Protect High Traffic Areas

In commercial premises, a centre aisle carpet runner, or a mat by the cash register are often seen.

4. Maintain Surface Regularly

Regular maintenance should include:

shaking dust from all mats and rugs on a regular basis
cleaning the protective pads under furnishings
soft bristle sweeping, including under mats and rugs
mop with a damp mop using 1/2 cup of methylated sprits in a bucket of warm water or AQUACARE 8440 Floor Clean Concentrate mixed at 20 parts water to one part AQUACARE 8440 Floor Clean Concentrate on a regular basis. The water should never be hotter than luke warm.

5. Prevent Mechanical Damage

Any heavy or sharp object, whether it be a children's toy, a piece of furniture, even dogs' claws, can cause wear and more obvious damage.

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