

HOW TO FINISH FLOORS

Purpose

To provide a protective floor surface which improves the floor's appearance and is easy to maintain.

Note: The thickness of 3 coats of floor finish is less than the thickness of wax paper, therefore, the floor finish must be applied properly to do the job.

Supplies and Equipment

EQUIPMENT

- 2 buckets on a dolly or cart with casters
- 2 wringers (one per bucket)
- Plastic liners
- "Floor Hazard" signs
- Floor Machine (optional)

CHEMICALS/WATER

- Floor Finish
- Fresh Water

FLOOR PADS

- **AMERICO** Finishing Pads:
 - a) **White** Super Polish
 - b) **Impress** UHS Burnishing

The mop used in this procedure should be clean and only used for floor finishing.

Procedure

1. Prepare floor area to be finished:
 - a) Follow floor stripping procedure "How to Strip Floors".
 - b) Allow floor to dry. Pick up any lint or other foreign material.
 - c) Move supplies and equipment into area where the floor is being finished.
 - d) Place "Wet Floor Hazard" signs at entrances to area if they are not already there.
 - e) Fill one bucket full with fresh water.
 - f) Put plastic liner into empty bucket before pouring in finish, then pour finish into plastic lined bucket. The plastic liner keeps the bucket clean and keeps the floor finish from becoming contaminated with residue that might be in the bucket.
2. Dip clean mophead into fresh water and wring out well.
3. Dip the damp mophead into the floor finish and wring out so the mophead does not drip.
4. Starting at the farthest corner from the door, apply a thin coat of finish on the floor next to the baseboard on each side of the corner. Apply 6' to 9' at a time.

TIP: Turn the mophead often and redip in finish before the mophead becomes dried out and streaks the floor.
5. Using a side to side (figure eight) movement, apply the finish to the floor area and overlap the strokes of the mophead. Avoid splashing. Apply amounts of finish evenly and cover all areas.
6. Allow floor to dry 20-30 minutes or until floor does not feel tacky to the touch.
7. If needed, apply more coats, per instructions on finish container, of finish as before except stay 6" to 12" away from the baseboards. This area gets little or no wear since people cannot walk that close to the baseboard. Multiple coats of finish at the baseboards build up too much.
8. Allow second coat to dry completely.
9. If buffing is desired between coats to level the finish and to increase the gloss, be sure:
 - a) That the floor finish used is buffable.
 - b) To use the correct **Americo** buffing pad on the floor machine.

Note: When buffing between applications of coats of finish, be sure to mop the floor with a dry dust mophead before applying the next coat.
10. Remove "Wet Floor Hazard" signs after the floor is dry.
11. Clean mophead and buckets.
12. Store your equipment and supplies.

Accomplishment

By following this floor finishing procedure, the floor's appearance will be clean, attractive and easier to maintain.