CIRCULAR SANDING MARKS UNDER DOWN LIGHTS

Where down-lighting (and other lighting directly above the floor) has been installed, circular sanding marks created during the inter-coat sanding process, can sometimes be apparent.

These may be aesthetically unacceptable to a customer, and in the extreme the sander may be required to re-sand the floor entirely to correct the condition.

- The shallower the viewing angle, the more noticeable the sanding mark may be.
- The more vertical the light source, the greater the degree of light that penetrates the coating and is reflected to the eye of the viewer.

Will These Marks Disappear With Time?

THE CIRCULAR SANDING MARKS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE IN INTENSITY WITH TIME.

- The sanding mark is visible because it contains minute traces of air and sanding dust trapped in the jagged sanding grooves. This condition will slowly diffuse out of the film with time and foot traffic thus reducing the visible impact of the marks.

How can inter-coat Sanding Marks be Minimised?

1. **Be Aware Of Lighting Factors Which May Highlight The Condition.**

Do this **before** you start the job!

Look for down lights, skylights, high level windows, etc. Fluorescent lights are not usually an issue due to the diffused light, but can still highlight a problem.

2. **Use Only Fine Grades Of Quality Abrasives**

Abrasive particles can dislodge during the sanding process and 'roll' around under the paper or screen creating larger 'gouges' in the previous coat. It is these larger, deeper cuts that can highlight the down lights or even natural lighting effect.

Cut edges of sand papers and ensure that screen backs are never too sharp or jagged.

Where down lights exist, anticipate a potential problem and use a finer grade of abrasive than what you would normally use. **The finer the abrasive, the less the circular sanding marks will be visible.** Use a minimum of 120 grade for between coat sanding or screening and preferably a 150 grade. **CHANGE WHEN NEEDED**. An additional "final buff" with a nylon pad has also proved beneficial on occasion.

3. **Your Rotary Sanding Machine Must Have Good Vacuum**

Dislodged abrasive particles must be removed from the floor as soon as possible before they can contribute to scratching.

4. Minimise The Weight On The Rotary Sander And Avoid A ‘Rocking’ Action Of The Sanding Machine

Excessive weight and/or a ‘rocking action’ will cause higher screen back edge contact pressure and hence a deeper cutting or ‘gouging’ action into the previous coat.

5. Choice of Coating

The higher the gloss the more likely the condition is to be noticed.

Where the condition is likely, DURAPOL 1013 Super Satin, DURAPOL 1012 Semi Gloss and DURAPOL 1014 Low Sheen may be a wise choice as a lower gloss and a lower viscosity will prove advantageous (will penetrate and wet the sanding grooves better).

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