

Customer FACT Sheet Series

When you choose the Ultimate Floor Sanding Company, you have piece of mind knowing the most technically advanced company in the industry is taking care of your requirements. Our FACT sheets are produced to provide a little more information to our customers.



The Ultimate
FLOOR SANDING
Company

www.UltimateFloorSanding.com

WATER BASED or OIL/SOLVENT BASED?

“EXPLODING THE MYTHS”

Myth No 1. “Solvent/oil based products are tougher than water based.”

Absolutely untrue. Most veteran contractors, who have experienced a range of products, agree that water based finishes will outwear their oil based counterparts. It may be true that water based products lose their sheen quicker which is why satin finishes are most popular. There are some instances where chemical resistance is important and therefore the choice of product is more limited.

Myth No 2. “Site applied products are as tough as factory applied UV cured polyurethane.”

Untrue, there are no site applied finishes as tough as UV cure PU. The latest generation of Nano technology is the very best and the closest thing. However factory applied finishes have significant disadvantages:

- (1) Open side and end joints allow water penetration and subsequently may cause the lacquer to flake away due to swelling or shrinking of the wood (see point 3).
- (2) The film thickness of factory applied systems is thinner than the finish of site applied systems.

Myth No 3. “Product hardness is the most important criteria when selecting product.”

False! All quality manufacturers recognise that flexibility and elasticity are vital. Wood moves naturally and deforms when things fall on it or it is subject to pressure (a stiletto heel for example). In these circumstances hard products such as acid catalyst lacquer just crack and will flake away. Water based products will contain some flexible acrylics or polyurethanes which gives the desirable properties of flexibility & elasticity.

For your Free Quotation Call now (office open 7 days ‘til 8pm) or visit our web site:

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Myth No 4. “I’ve heard that ???? is the best product”

The best product depends on the situation. No manufacturer has access to a “magic ingredient”. There are very few suppliers of the base resins and so the only major differences are in the ratios the resins are mixed in. Additives such as waxes, levellers, defoamer and crosslinkers can affect resistance to scratching, abrasion and chemicals but the basic premise above is true. What is important is the backup and technical help the manufacturer has in place to assist the contractor.

You should always talk through the different options with an industry professional before product selection.

Myth No 5. “You can get a floor finish that requires no maintenance.”

The most important factor in making a floor finish last is the end user.

A well maintained floor finished with a low specification product will outlast a poorly treated floor coated with an expensive product. As rule go for the best product you can afford and *maintain it well*.

Myth No 6. “If it smells bad... it must be good.”

The most dangerous myth of all! Acid catalyst floor lacquers are the worst offenders in this category and are used by contractors for 2 reasons. First they are cheap and second they require very little skill to look good. Originally developed for the furniture industry they were adapted for floor use due to their fast drying nature. As stated in number 3 above they are brittle and prone to crack on large surfaces such as floors and they wear through quicker than water based products. Acid catalyst products continue to produce formaldehyde by chemical reaction long after the product is cured not just dry (see data pack for health information.)

Solvent based systems may contain up to 50% solvent which cause an intense smell. They have to be labelled (e.g. inflammable, irritant, etc.) Water based systems may contain up to 15% solvent and they don't have to be labelled.

The health and environmental issues with solvent based products are serious and there is no good reason for having them in your home.

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