

Urethane Coatings Product Knowledgebase

Why has the paint near my new coating yellowed?

-1. The Cause

This is a relatively uncommon, but recurring and often distressing problem for Floorsanders and clients alike. It occurs when a floor is coated with Polyurethane soon after the surrounding walls have been painted with certain brands of PVA white paint. What happens is that part or all of the walls turn pale yellow during the curing process of the Polyurethane. The effect is usually observed the day after coating has been applied. It has been demonstrated that paints made by Dulux, British Paints, Bergers and Taubmans do not generally exhibit this effect, and paints made by other manufacturers are not effected if they are given sufficient time to dry.

Generally, paint manufacturers do not disclose the ingredients of their paint, and therefore we can only postulate as to the cause of this phenomenon, the evidence suggests that there is a slowly evaporating ingredient in the effected paints, which reacts with one of the volatile components of the Polyurethane producing a yellow substance.

The remedy

It has been found that the offending yellow substance is readily oxidised by dilute chlorine solution rendering it colourless. Therefore, effected walls should be washed with a dilute 'White king' solution or similar. A better option is for the Floorsander to ask the client if the walls have been freshly painted with a suspected paint, and if so, then offer one of the following options;

Plan ahead, and use a brand of paint known NOT to yellow, Plan ahead and have the floor coating completed and cured prior to painting the walls. Wait at least one month for the paint to fully dry. Allow in the quotation provision for washing the walls with chlorine solution. Coat with an oil based coating; eg. MODIFIED OIL GLOSS, MODIFIED OIL SATIN or TUNGSEAL.

<http://www.urethancoatings.com.au/kb/questions.php?questionid=11>