

Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

This surface texture hides dents and scratches



Handscraped hardwood flooring conceals scratches and dents, which offers a source of tranquility for those of us who are easily irritated by even the most subtle imperfections in the surface area. The distressed surface texture acts as camouflages for scratches and dents.

Those who are attentive to detail realize this gift can be an obvious asset. However, it can also be a liability especially when you notice new scratches and dents on a smooth hardwood floor, which can be a source of frustration, aggravation; even buyer's remorse.

Perfectionists should avoid hardwood flooring with smooth surfaces where scratches and dents are obvious. Consider handscraped hardwood flooring. Dull the periphery senses with this distressed surface where scratches and dents blend in to the pattern. You might even be able to sleep better at night by doing so, as an added bonus.

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Flooring Updates



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Flooring Network

For those in the market and those that serve it

Floor Covering Media, a business network serving the floor covering industry, provides readers timely, objective news and information about flooring topics.

Floor Search

Answers to Questions About Flooring

Readers may conveniently retrieve this timely, objective news and information at [Floor Search.info](http://FloorSearch.info), which is Floor Covering Media's public search engine.

If you are not ready to purchase a brand new hardwood floor, consider applying a different type of hardwood flooring finish.

Frustrated do-it-yourselfers find scratches weeks even days later because glossy finishes reveal scratches from the light.

Water based polyurethanes usually requires twice the time to solidify when compared to some oil based polyurethanes. Oil-based polyurethane varnish has the polyurethane resins added into the mix during the manufacturing process, which are transformed by way of heat into a mixture that will "cross link" when then it cures into a durable surface. Polyurethane resins in the oil-based polyurethane provide a soft surface which, in turn, gives it abrasion resistance.

The difference in this respect between an alkyd or phenolic resin varnish is not as great as marketers say though that is dependent on the product and how it's formulated. Water borne "polyurethane" is generally an acrylic

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coating with polyurethane resin added, which may not be as durable or scratch resistant as the oil based variety.

Some say the opposite but these comments were also likely based upon products being easily available to the consumer market. Companies, such as Target Coatings and Fuhr International have been developing some pretty nifty new finishes, including water borne polyurethane and conversion varnish products that do approximate the durability that their oil-based products.

Water-based polyurethanes provide a clear finish and have low odor. You can recoat them in two hours and clean your tools with water. If you start early enough in the day, you can apply the recommended four coats and sleep in the room that night.

Oil-based polyurethanes leave an amber glow and require fewer coats. But the five-hour wait between coats and 12-hour wait after the last coat will put a bedroom out of commission for a few days—and you'll have to put up with a strong odor.

Both water based and oil based poly offer good protection; the biggest difference is in appearance. If you love the natural look of maple, apply a water-based (waterborne) polyurethane. They appear milky in the can, but go on clear and remain clear. They'll slightly accent the character of your wood without giving it the amber tint of an oil-based poly. (However, some woods, like the oak shown, cry out for that amber tint.) Water-based finishes dry fast—most within two hours—so you can apply several coats in a day and use the room that night. They have minimal odor and clean up with water too.

But water-based polys have their tradeoffs. They cost twice as much as oil-based polys. They won't give wood the rich glow that oil-based polys impart; some even consider them cold looking. When I applied waterborne poly recently, I found that it went on so clear I had to use a bottle cap to mark each 8-in. wide swath of finish as I went.

Most water-based polys contain only 30 to 35 percent solids, compared with the 45 to 50 percent solids in oil-based products. Since these solids create the protective finish, you need to apply four coats, as opposed to two or three. And you may need to apply additional coats every two years or so.

There's debate over which finish is harder, but some experts maintain that hardness isn't necessarily a good attribute of a floor finish. You want a finish that will flex along with the floor. And a super-hard finish shows scratches more readily. You'll prolong the protective life of any finish by eliminating its No. 1 enemies: dirt and grit. Sweep or vacuum the floor often and put throw rugs in high-traffic areas.

Notable: The tools this project requires are knee pads, rags and a roller tray; plus a floor finish applicator. The materials this project requires are polyurethane and paint thinner for oil-based polyurethane. Having these tools and materials is likely to save time and frustration.