

IN THE FIELD By Paul Ruiz, Sales & Technical Representative

When fielding tech calls, there are two important questions I encounter on a daily basis. “How many coats do I apply?” and “What is the duration of time between coatings?”

Let's solve these by starting at the beginning of the finish process. With the possible exception of High Performance, always begin with Glitsa sealers over any possible stain and under the necessary topcoat. Our sealers build a protective surface coating that minimizes finish penetration. With any sealer, be prepared for the release of solvents during the drying process.

This is where proper ventilation comes in. Once the finish has had time to flow and level, begin a push-pull process. That means maintaining openings, such as doors and windows, on opposing sides of the dwelling to create an air exchange. It is seldom enough to just circulate the HVAC fan. Err on exceeding Glitsa's recommended dry times rather than minimizing them.

Now that the sealer is dry, it's time for the topcoat. Don't forget to abrade and tack off any sealer that is not a stain prior to application. Then, Glitsa recommends one easy topcoat when using our Swedish system. (Or, you can put down an additional seal coat for more build and the one topcoat.)

If multiple finish coats are necessary, possibly with waterborne, allow each one to dry thoroughly before abrading again. This will prevent harming the sealed surface. Use of a moisture meter can help determine when it's alright to apply a second coat. Again, it's important to ventilate the area while each layer dries.

Rushing dry times will only lead to the sandwiching of solvents, creating a barrier that slows their escape. Too many coats in a short period will also not produce a harder floor. It's just the contrary. A floor may actually seem softer due to the fact that the initial coats have not been able to fully cure.

Contractors have the first, and last, say on what kind of application schedule will be followed for the best outcome. Homeowners must respect, and rely upon, your professional opinions and decisions. After all, *they chose you.* ♦

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF WHAT TO DO TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL JOB:

- 1. Set an accurate timeline that the customer understands and accepts. Make sure to allow more than sufficient time, just in case.**
- 2. Have an understanding prior to starting the job of how you are going to ventilate the area. Take into account the accessibility of windows and doors in the home.**
- 3. Do not rush the job. If your good common sense raises a question of doubt, back off. Remember, it costs far less time and money to come back tomorrow than to redo the entire job.**
- 4. Sometimes more is less. Do not let the homeowner talk you into that fourth coat. Remember, an extra coat in too little time can equate to an inferior finish. Rather, set the job upon a maintenance schedule. Then you can apply additional coats within a period of time sufficient for proper curing.**
- 5. Call 1-800-527-8111 for technical service when a question arises.**