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# the Swedish edition

*Glitsa American's newsletter for flooring professionals*

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## Rolling With The Changes in the Waterbase Finish Market

by Chris Pryjomski, Glitsa Sales & Technical Representative

With today's complex floor designs and intricate borders, different methods for applying waterborne finish than the conventional methods are sometimes needed. Traditionally waterborne finishes are T-barred and flat padded. However, when you come across a patterned floor where the grain does not run in one direction, you may need to apply finish so that it does not leave any potential streaks or application marks across the grain. Rolling waterborne can be a great method of application in this case.

Rolling waterborne finish is done with a 3/8" nap woven roller. This nap will hold the proper amount of finish for a good coverage rate and proper lay-off of the product. When rolling, make sure to completely cover the floor with finish and to feather off. Feathering off is done by ramping on and off in a motion similar to an airplane landing and taking off. Some contractors will pour a long 3 to 6 inch wide puddle and pull the roller like a T-bar down the length of the room. Others will pour a large puddle in a section of floor where they will start and work back away from the wet finish ramping off at the wet edge. The biggest factor in any method of rolling you choose is to keep a wet edge and feather off at each pass. On a non-directional floor, try to roll with the longest direction of the room.

A helpful tip that has taken off in the industry is to section off the rooms with blue tape. Blue tape is a tool that every contractor could benefit from. Most houses are not square rooms. Today's cut up jobs can benefit from sectioning off

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before the start of application. Put the blue tape down on the floor with the direction of the flooring at a board seam, or where two rooms join (for example, a hallway and a bedroom). When you do a long run or have to work away from that area and come back to cut in, you have a sharp crisp line to blend to. This creates a seamless blend instead of the rough puddle line you create with the applicator. Make sure you remove the tape before the finish sets up. Usually a few minutes is all that is needed to create that sharp line and the finish won't flow out after you remove it.

When in very tight cramped quarters sometimes a flat pad or a block with a waterborne pad is all you will need. Some contractors use this for the entire floor. Use the flat pad with the front and rear leading edges. Never hold the pad flat as this will just push wet finish puddles out in front or to the rear of the pad. Angle the pad so that the front 1/3 or the rear 1/3 is contacting the floor. This allows the extra finish to be absorbed into the middle of the pad and gives you a fine, feathered finished edge.

As with any new method or product, start with a smaller, more manageable job. You may want to practice first in the shop on a 4' x 8' piece of plywood before trying the new method and/or product on your small job. It won't be long before you have perfected your technique and are ready to move on to the larger, high profile jobs.

These are a few tricks and methods that can be used in today's complicated layouts and designs. Make sure to read and follow the manufacturer's recommended application methods and recommended coverage rates. Glitsa manufactures three excellent waterborne options. Quality Seal is a sealer that can be used over bare wood or stains. Infinity II can be used as both a sealer and a topcoat. HP is a topcoat that is an excellent choice for high-traffic or commercial areas. Both HP and Infinity II can be rolled as long as proper coverage rates are followed. Good luck and remember to roll with the changes in today's changing flooring world! ♦

