

# Taber abrasion tests and the Gold Seal System

By Barry Nelson, Sales Manager

**O**ne of the most frequent questions I am asked by contractors is, “How do Swedish finishes compare to the other floor finishes on the market in taber abrasion tests?” Lately it seems as if this test is the be-all-end-all when evaluating a floor coating. I understand why many lab technicians like this test. It is an easy test to run, it’s cheap, fast and provides a number as a reference point against other products on the market. The truth is that taber abrasion tests work well in the lab to evaluate similar finishes and to track the progress of a finish when formulating a new product. I

This vinyl resin is a very resilient product. Vinyl resins like Gold Seal and Gold Seal Lite Scent finishes have a lot of flexibility and give to them. When these finishes are scuffed, the coating will give and then snap back into place, which in most circumstances will leave a scuff mark in the floor that can be wiped out by lightly rubbing the scuff mark with a cotton cloth. As you can see, this is a very effective system to produce a long-wearing floor that is going to keep its beauty. A scratch in a hard surface coating such as the more common waterbase and polyurethane finishes will actually mar or lightly scratch



such as the more common waterbase and polyurethane’s is like an etching in the coating itself. This etching will appear as a white jagged scratch in the floor. Remember, Gold Seal and Gold Seal Lite Scent finishes are the only fin-

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would like to point out that taber abrasion testing is only one part of the puzzle when looking at the durability of a finish. Chemical resistance, flexibility, scuff and scratch resistance and “real life wear characteristics” all come to mind when evaluating a finish. A durable coating will have a mix of all the properties listed above. Often it is not how long a finish wears but how well it looks as it wears. The only test that matters in the end is how well the floor coating stands up to the test of time.

Glitsa Gold Seal and Gold Seal Lite Scent finishes use a vinyl resin system.

and leave behind a blemish that cannot be rubbed out because the less flexible resin system has actually been damaged, leaving a permanent mark in the coating.

One of the major advantages to the Gold Seal and Gold Seal Lite Scent system is that a vinly resin system will not show scratches in the same way a common hard surface coating will. A scratch in a vinyl type coating is more like a cut. This cut in the finish does not show as prominently because it is a cut, and because of the color of the resin system itself. A scratch in a hard surface coating

ishes with this type of resin system that have a 50-year track record behind them. No other finish of this type can show you the “TEST OF TIME” results that Gold Seal and Gold Seal Lite Scent finishes have proven for over 50 years.

The Gold Seal finish is a 50-year old technology that has proven itself in the field the old fashion way, by “Withstanding the test of time”. Some coatings may produce higher Taber abrasion test results, but in real life that doesn’t make the coating a longer-wearing product. The Taber Abrasion test a good test, but only a piece of the puzzle. ■