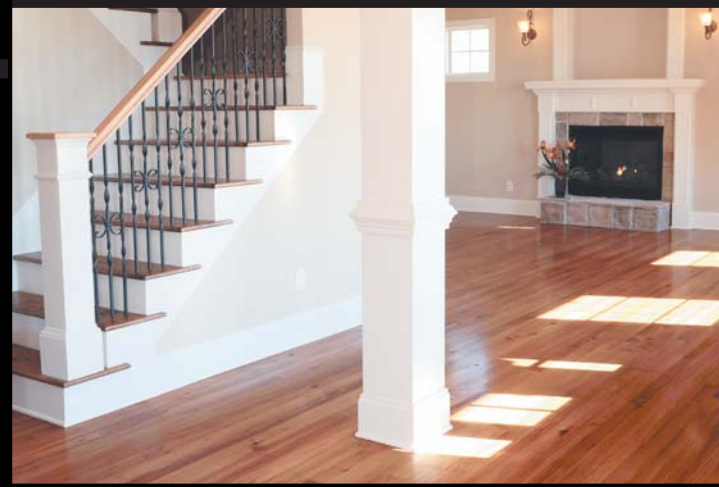


# water works

## Beautiful Floors

## Low VOC



**Q. What are VOC's?**

**A.** VOC's are volatile organic compounds that are potentially hazardous to the environment and human health according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under certain conditions VOC's can form other chemicals or smog that deplete the ozone layer that protects the earth. This concern has led to the regulation of VOC's by federal and state governments.

**Q. What is the federal VOC law?**

**A.** The federal government mandates that varnishes (wood floor coatings) must have a VOC of 450 grams per liter or less. Many states have passed legislation that requires VOC's to be even lower. One way to keep up with the regulations on paints and coatings is to follow Los Angeles. They have the strictest rules for coatings. If your finish is okay in Los Angeles, it is probably okay to use anywhere in North America. Clear Wood Finishes is the category of coating that Basic Coatings Wood Floor Finishes fall under in Los Angeles and applies most directly to wood flooring professionals. This category includes lacquer, varnish, and sanding sealer and must not exceed 275 grams of VOC per liter.

**Q. Are the VOC rules the same in Canada?**

**A.** Canada's new regulations are more restrictive than the U. S. Federal rule and require a VOC of 350 grams per liter or less. Canada's new rules go into effect this September for manufacturers and importers.

**Q. Are there any special rules that must be followed when using government funding for projects?**

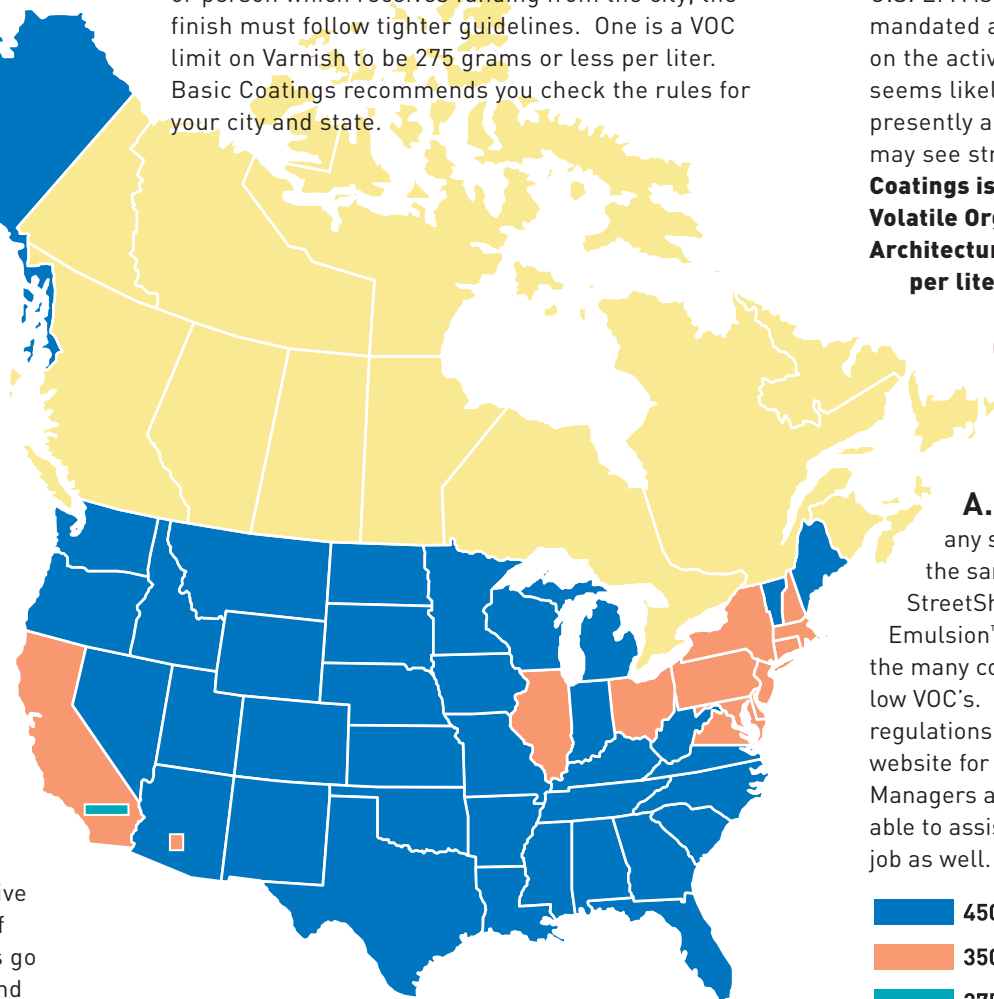
**A.** New York City has a purchasing preference requirement that is stricter than New York's State architectural VOC rule. If a coating is purchased with funds from the city or by any agency, group, or person which receives funding from the city, the finish must follow tighter guidelines. One is a VOC limit on Varnish to be 275 grams or less per liter. Basic Coatings recommends you check the rules for your city and state.

**Q. With Canada and several states making changes to their VOC rules, can I expect changes where I live?**

**A.** With so many VOC rules and regulations it can become overwhelming to keep up with them all. The color coded map provided in this story can act as a guide but regulations are ever changing. The U.S. EPA is currently reviewing the VOC laws they mandated and are working on a revision. Based on the activity in the states and Canada, a revision seems likely to the national rule. States that presently allow VOC's up to 450 grams per liter may see stricter limits in the near future. **Basic® Coatings is anticipating that the new National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standard for Architectural Coatings will be 350 grams of VOC per liter for varnishes.**

**Q. What Basic® Coating's wood floor finish meets the regulations in all states?**

**A.** StreetShoe® 275 is the right choice for any state and even Canada. It possesses the same great properties as our original StreetShoe®, but has a VOC of less than 275. Emulsion™ and Hydrolin® Plus are two more of the many coatings that Basic Coatings offers with low VOC's. If you ever have questions about VOC regulations visit your clean air district or state's website for information. Basic® Coatings Regional Managers and our friendly customer service staff are able to assist you in picking the right finish for your job as well.



**VOC REGULATED LOCATIONS  
VARNISH - January 2010**

- 450 g/L VOC
- 350 g/L VOC
- 275 g/L VOC

**CANADA** - 350 g/L VOC for manufacturers and importers effective Sept. 2010

**NEW NATIONAL LIMIT TO BE PROPOSED 2010**

## New EPA Certification

Refinishing wood floors by sanding or screening in residential homes, daycares, or schools built before 1978 will require you to be certified by the U.S. EPA beginning April 2010.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classifies most wood floor coatings as varnishes which are in the same category as paints. Under the Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP), a renovation project which will alter more than 6 sq. ft. of painted surface (including floor finish) may need to adhere to the new requirements. The purpose of the rule is to reduce and prevent exposure to hazardous lead dust and chips which can be harmful to adults and children.

Basic® Coatings Tykote® Dustfree Refinishing System is perfect for jobs that fall under the RRP rule and only Basic Coatings offers it! Get an advantage over your competition by providing this green alternative. Your customers will be impressed that you are knowledgeable of the law and even more impressed that you have a solution. Since you are cleaning, not screening, you are not disturbing the existing finish and do not trigger the requirements of RRP.

There are some sand jobs that won't require RRP such as those in newer buildings. Older buildings not occupied with children under the age of 6 may be excluded from RRP, but require the owner to sign a document confirming the use of the building. Keep this for your records. If the building is tested and declared lead-free by a certified inspector or risk assessor, the rules of RRP do not apply.

Jobs which will require RRP regulations will need more preparation and cleanup but are possible. For instructions on how to become certified, please call the EPA Hotline, 800-424-LEAD (5323). They are a good resource for you and have brochures and documents available to send. You can also visit [www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm) to download forms and brochures, lists of authorized trainers and test kits, applications for certification, and much more.

Lastly, keep an eye on possible changes at the state level. On Oct. 9, 2009, Wisconsin became the first state to create their own Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule. If you do projects in Wisconsin, you must comply with their rules and certify to the state government.

## Did You Know?



**Emulsion™ contains biorenewable sources derived from Tung Oil.**

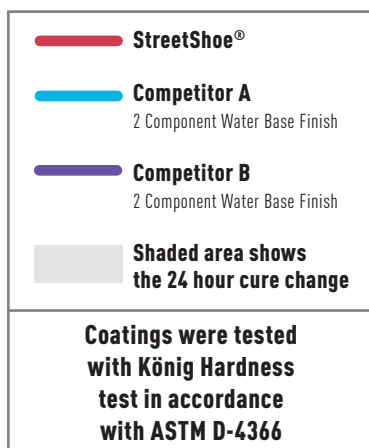
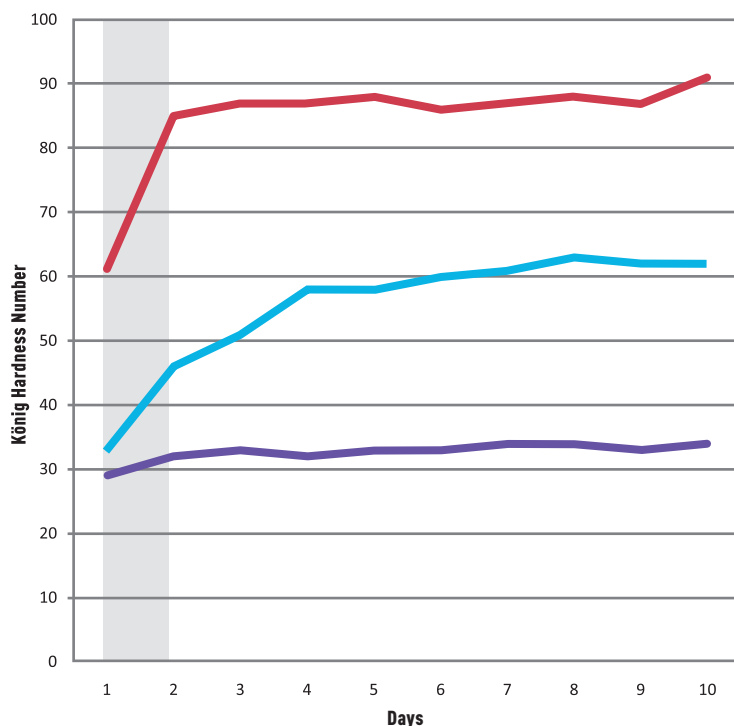
This is natural oil derived from the nuts of the tung tree. Tung oil has been used for many centuries. The ancient Chinese used to coat their ships with tung oil. The incorporation of tung oil into Emulsion helps it penetrate into the wood, bringing out the wood's rich warm color and also provides the protective properties you've come to expect.

## Green Product Spotlight

**StreetShoe® 275 is Basic® Coatings' fastest growing finish for many reasons.**

Basic Coatings StreetShoe 275 has excellent flow and leveling, the ability to be re-catalyzed and a low VOC that can be used in the most stringent of regulations. One of the greatest properties of both StreetShoe® and StreetShoe® 275 is their overnight hardness development. The innovative blend of polymers, solvents and nanotechnology additives used in StreetShoe allows it to achieve unparalleled hardness overnight. The graph below depicts how the competitor's products take 3 or more days to achieve 90% of their total hardness.

**StreetShoe achieves 90% of its maximum hardness within 24 hours.** This is crucial for commercial facilities because a floor can be recoated tonight and be back in service tomorrow.



This information is offered for the confidential use of Basic® Coatings personnel and the company's authorized distributors. It is presented based on our research which we believe to be correct and objective. No guarantee is expressed or implied. Please provide your own evaluation prior to drawing any conclusions.

For more information, contact your Basic distributor.  
 Visit our website at [www.basiccoatings.com](http://www.basiccoatings.com) or call us toll-free at 800-441-1934.

## Green Earth®

**Basic® Coatings finishes were developed to address safety issues in the bowling industry and replace highly flammable and dangerous products previously used on bowling alleys.**

The Green Earth® logo that you see on many of Basic Coatings water-based finishes and sealers represent products incorporating technology-driven chemistry, using less solvents and deliver low VOC. Basic Coatings, the originator of water-based coatings for wood floors, promoted these products before ozone depletion, indoor air quality or solvent exposure were concerns. Basic Coatings has been committed to improving your environment, one floor at a time, since its inception by offering safer and greener alternatives for wood flooring professionals and homeowners. Choose from any of these great green products to create beautiful wood floors today: **StreetShoe® 275, Emulsion™, Squeaky™, Tykote®, Hydroline® Plus, Hydroline Sealer®, I.F.T., Lock 'N Seal and Commercial Catalyzed Sealer.**



## Ask the Expert

**Q:** We just had our basketball floor refinished with **StreetShoe® - Waterbased Wood Floor Finish**. I regularly clean the floor with **Squeaky™ - Cleaner for Wood and Laminate Floors** but how should I clean up blood residue?

**A:** The recent H1N1 scare has raised many questions on how to properly disinfect wood floors. Quat disinfectants can cause problems when recoating floors but they may be necessary for bloodborne pathogen decontamination.

1. Spot clean the area with a neutral quat disinfectant. This disinfectant cleaner should have broad spectrum disinfectant kill claims including Hepatitis B Virus and HIV-1.

2. Allow the disinfectant to dwell for the proper amount of time.

3. Rinse with Squeaky™ cleaner to remove the quat residue. Removing the residue is critical when recoating floors as it may cause contamination problems. Cleaning before screening is always recommended when recoating floors.

