

## Waiting & Ventilating –Gymnasium Recoat Tips

### ***Dry Times Between Coats of Finish:***

Water-based finishes can dry to touch and light foot traffic in as little as an hour. The finish will be dry to touch, but not completely cured. In fact, the coating may contain a high level of water and solvents long after becoming dry to the touch. If there is poor ventilation, high humidity, or slow drying conditions, solvents and moisture may take several hours to fully evaporate.

Just because you can walk over fresh finish doesn't mean it ready for another coat. It is very important to allow *at least 3 hours* drying time before applying another coat. Good ventilations must also be maintained during the first few hours. Failure to provide both may trap solvent and moisture inside the lower or previous coat. Excessive amounts of trapped moisture and solvent will haze inside the uncured coat.

There are two forms of hazing – One is formed inside the first coat of finish, the other is on top of the second coat. Both are unsightly and can happen separately or together. Although there is no direct correlation, loss of traction is sometimes associated with a severe case of surface haze. Don't forget that if the floor is allowed to dry longer than 24 hours between coats, either screening the floor or the use of *Basic Coatings TyKote® Dustfree Recoating System* will be necessary.

### ***Cleaning:***

Clean the floor with *Basic Coatings Squeaky Cleaner* prior to screening the floor. It's easier to clean and remove dirt from a floor while it's still smooth, Squeaky Removes dirt and oil without leaving a residue when dried.

Screening creates crevices in which dirt can settle. Do not expect screening alone to clean a floor. Screening does not remove oils, grease, or other residues. It simply spreads them around.

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### **Screening:**

Screening should be done in a thorough, consistent manner. Think of running a buffer like a lawn mower, but walk the buffer sideways. The mower method will cut a floor far more even, and faster, than the polishing method of standing in one spot and swinging the buffer back and forth.

Rescreening a second time perpendicular to the first pass will ensure the entire floor is adequately abraded.

The best way to screen a floor is with the tried and true dry-screen approach. Dry screening can create a lot of airborne dust, however, there are vacuum attachments now available to fit most any buffer. These attachments capture almost all of the airborne material a buffer can produce, making dry screening less messy.

For dust control, wet screening or an auto scrubber can be used if done carefully, but many run the risk of an inadequate screen job or possible water damage. Do not wet screen freshly sanded floors or floors with open cracks. If using one of these methods, make sure to remove **all** gloss from the floor. Clean the floor and inspect it dry. If the floor is shiny, screen it again.