

## Cold Weather and Waterborne Coatings

### Background

In cold weather, waterborne coatings may experience slow drying and associated concerns.

The main concern experienced with waterborne Polyurethanes in cold weather is a **tendency to 'peel' a still 'green' coat 2 from coat 1** when rotary sanding to prepare for the final third coat apply.

Those environment conditions that would slow the drying of washing on a clothes line have the same influence on waterborne coatings drying performance.

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### What weather conditions might cause slow drying and problems?

Experience shows that temperatures below 15 deg C have noticeable effect and those below 10 deg C have significant effect.

Dampness and humidity will further greatly slow down the coat drying.

The colder the floor itself, also the slower the drying.

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### What can one do to speed up drying in cold / damp weather?

#### Increase airflow

Some contractors use large fans to enable air flow across the drying surface of sealer coat and first coat of waterborne Polyurethane (your washing on the line will dry in winter if a good breeze is blowing but will be very slow to dry in still air).

#### Warm up the room

Electric fan heaters have been shown to be highly effective. Contractors that use these generally have them on a raised surface and the fan directed at about 45 degrees upwards.

The blower on high also maximises air circulation.

Room heating can be employed but be careful that the room heater does not blow down onto the floor surface as this localised heating can cause other issues to occur. Elevated heating from a reverse cycle air conditioner is fine.

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## To summarise

Always use the analogy of the washing on the line when considering how a waterborne coating might dry in a certain environment.

Fans and heaters are commonly used to speed up drying and enable earlier second coat buffing.

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For further information contact our 7 day, 24 hour hot line on

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