

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Lap Marks

Synonyms – Lap marks, Roller Marks, Edge Cut-in marks, Application marks, Overlap marks

Background

'Lap Marking' is evidenced on a coated timber or cork floor by the appearance of lighter and darker colouration coincident to the coatings application pattern.

It can be of 'nuisance value' or in severe cases may warrant corrective action.

Mot floors will show a degree of lap marking if one carefully seeks out the condition.

Assessment of severity depends on many factors as discussed later in this bulletin, with the basis determination being 'situational', and viewing angles and distances as outlined in other publications.

Cause of Lap Marking

Lap marking is contributed to by the following:

- Tannin rich timbers
- Coatings with tannin reactivity
- Uneven coating application
- 'Patchwork' method of coating pattern
- Coating thickness variation
- Edge cut-ins too dry at overcoat
- High timber absorbency

Timbers that have a higher probability of lap marking condition are:

- Jarrah
- Eastern Blackbutt
- Tasmanian Oak
- Karri
- Certain white ant or preservative treated timber

These timbers may show degrees of lap marking despite careful and correct technique and materials selection.

How To Minimise Lap Marks in Timber and Cork Floors

The following considerations will assist in minimising lap marking on timber and cork floors.
The first coat applied

- Avoid coating across boards
- Avoid 'patchwork' technique of coatings application.
- Apply first coat in direction of timber with finishing stroke wall-to-wall.
- On complex plan floors some brush cut-off may be necessary so as to match up to earlier coated surfaces. Overcoating too dry a wet edge can give a lap mark.
- Do not cut-in edges too far ahead of the coating.
- Be aware that very dry timbers (moisture less than 10%) will readily absorb timbers and thin / thick spots eg end of roller strokes, may contribute. Wall to wall finishing strokes are required.
- In hot weather when coatings may dry quickly, allowing an edge cut-in or a wet edge to dry too much can cause lap marks from overcoating.

Assessment of Significance

When does a lap mark become unacceptable? This question is commonly asked when if one looks carefully at any coated floor, a degree of lap marking can usually be found.

Low intensity lap marks tend to reduce in severity as time goes on due to:

- Oxidative darkening of timbers
- Yellowing of certain coatings

Six months is typical for a noticeable reduction in lap marks.

More significant lap marks are those obvious from a standing position when viewed at an angle of 45 degrees from three 90-degree directions to the lap mark.

Although reduction of severity can be expected with time, severe lap marks can be expected to be still significant after 6 months or more.

The 'dissatisfaction index' would need to be assessed within the range of 'commercial acceptable quality' as the basis of the requirement for rectification.

Refer publication on 'Dissatisfaction Index and Commercially Acceptable Quality'.

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