

## **TIMBER SQUASH FLOOR PROGRAM**

*Peerless JAL Pty Ltd*

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**OIL RESIN TYPE SEALS  
PENETRATING SEAL**

This program deals with the preparation, sealing and maintenance of Timber Floors used exclusively for sporting activities. The program is designed to provide an attractive and functional surface on which to enjoy all forms of sporting activities and assumes the use of correct footwear at all times.

The adaptation of the system offered will provide the best results while presenting a showpiece appearance for your facility. It should be remembered that the final result on the floor is dependent on three things:

1. Initial Preparation
2. Sealing the Floor
3. Routine Maintenance Procedures

If short cuts are taken or poor methods used in any of the above a reduced final result will almost certainly occur. Attempts to save money by short cuts or inadequate materials will cause greater expenditure in routine maintenance.

The finish on a timber floor is designed to produce four major objectives:

#### **i) PRESERVATION & PROTECTION OF THE TIMBER**

When a seal is applied to timber it penetrates the wood and becomes an integral part of the floor. It also provides a surface film, which acts as a barrier between the timber, and any foreign matter (dirt, grit, food, etc.), which may damage the floor. The seal barrier forms, in effect, a layer, which absorbs the abuse, and wear all floors are subjected to instead of the timber. The seal can be repaired easily and inexpensively whereas replacement of the timber is a major cost.

#### **ii) SURFACE CHARACTERISTICS**

The finish on the floor can be designed to produce a surface for many activities. The seals used will provide a surface suitable for indoor sports such as Basketball and Gymnasium work. If activities such as dances, dinners, etc. are contemplated then additional treatments are required.

#### **iii) APPEARANCE**

Timber floors provide an aesthetically pleasing appearance. The natural colours and grain of the timber enhance the whole interior of the building. It is therefore important that all finishes are designed to accentuate these basic characteristics.

#### **iv) EASE OF MAINTENANCE**

Proper initial treatment ensures that routine maintenance, which must occur, will be minimised. Filling the pores prevents dirt penetration, increases wear resistance and makes cleaning more efficient.

The major source of wear to any floor surface is foreign material tracked into the floor surface. Careful attention must be placed on the exclusion of dust, dirt and grit from the building. Adequate matting must be placed in all entrance areas to trap dirt and grit before it gets to the timber floor. In a gymnasium normal activity in approved footwear will cause little damage to the floor finish, but grit and dirt can cause severe damage to the floor in a matter of days.

Finally, it is imperative that proper routine maintenance procedures are introduced before the floor is put in use. To ascertain correct routine maintenance procedures, it must be decided exactly for what the hall will be used. Obviously procedures vary for gymnasiums and dance areas.

### **1) INITIAL PREPARATION**

Reference is made to the Australian Standard Code of Recommended Practice for the Sanding of Interior Wooden Floors, AS CA39 published by the Standards Association of Australia.

#### ***Preliminary Work and Precautions.***

- a.** All nails should be punched 3mm below the floor surface and all tacks removed prior to sanding.
- b.** Dampness under the floor may have serious effects on finished floor surfaces. Ventilation and moisture content of the sub floor space should always be checked before floor sanding operations start.
- c.** Before the start and during sanding operations the floor should be adequately protected against accidental staining, traffic, damage, moisture, etc.

- i) **Sanding**  
The final appearance of the floor is very dependent on the evenness of the surface after sanding. Sanding should be carried out by skilled operators using appropriate equipment. They must be permitted sufficient time to carry out the correct number of cuts to enable the final floor surface to be as even as possible. They must be provided with adequate power and full lighting should be installed.
- ii) **Cleaning**  
The entire floor should be vacuum cleaned to remove all dust. The floor should then be inspected and all surface irregularities re-sanded and the dust removed.
- iii) **Final Cleaning**  
The entire floor should be swept with lint free cloths moistened with mineral turps. Care must be taken not to wet the floor with the solvent. The objective is to moisten the cloths sufficiently to enable all fine dust missed by the vacuum cleaner to adhere to the cloths. The cloths should be reversed and replaced frequently. After this treatment the floor should be completely smooth and dust free.  
*Note: Great care must be taken that the floor surface is protected from all dirt, dust and traffic during the above steps.*
- iv) **Refurbishing**  
When refurbishing an old floor ensure there is no trace of wax or acrylic polish left on the floor before sealing commences.

## OILY SPECIES

Oily timbers like Turpentine and Brushbox prevent penetration of timber seals. To assist the adhesion of the seal it is recommended to wash the surface of the timber with Mineral Turps prior to application of each coat

## 2) SEALING THE FLOOR

- i) **Penetrating Seal SE03**  
Apply one coat PEERLESS PRO Penetrating Seal SE03 using a lambswool applicator. Pour a quantity of seal into a seal tray, dip applicator and apply liberally to the floor working with the grain, stroking with a backward, forward motion. Sufficient seal must be used and worked into the floor to fill as much as possible. Ensure that pools of excess seal do not occur and an even coat is applied.  
Allow sufficient time to dry, 2 hours is usual, however, this may vary depending on atmospheric conditions particularly in winter. Provide plenty of ventilation. Lack of ventilation will extend drying times.  
The lambswool applicator should be washed in Mineral Turpentine or White Spirits immediately after use.  
*Note: It is important to ensure that the PEERLESS PRO Penetrating Seal SE03 is completely dry before proceeding.*
- ii) **Filling Nail Holes**  
Stop up with wood putty (an effective putty can be made by making a paste from PEERLESS PRO Penetrating Seal SE03 and the saw dust from sanding). The putty should be of a colour to match the timber.  
*Note: Filling should take place after the first seal coat to prevent any oil from the putty penetrating the untreated timber and causing discolouration around the nail holes.*
- iii) **Cutback Treatment**  
Cut back the surface using 150g screenback discs under a rotary polishing machine. A rotary machine with a vacuum pickup is particularly useful as the bulk of the dust can be collected at this time. Cutback all edges and corners, which are inaccessible to the polishing machine. The entire floor should be swept with lint free cloths moistened with solvent in the same way as *step (iv) Final Cleaning* in section 1. "Initial Preparation".
- iv) **Mark In Court Lines**  
Where applicable the lines for Squash may now be marked in. This procedure should be carried out by a skilled operator who will advise on drying and hardening times. It is the responsibility of the line marker to determine the compatibility of the line marking paints and PEERLESS PRO Seals.  
*Note: When the lines are completely dry and to ensure good adhesion of the 2nd coat of PEERLESS PRO Penetrating Seal to the lines, it is recommended that the lines be lightly cut back using an old Sandscreen Disc.*

### 2nd Coat

PEERLESS PRO Penetrating Seal should be applied over the initial coat within 48 hours of drying.

Ensure the floor is completely dust free. Apply one coat of PEERLESS PRO Penetrating Seal SE04 using a lambswool applicator. The recommended application procedure is the "*Two Man Method*".

- Fill seal tray to 3/4 capacity.
- Start in a corner and man 1 spreads the seal across the grain of the timber to a width of approximately 2 metres.
- Man 2 smooths the seal in line with the grain ensuring an even coat. Man 2 at all times pulls the applicator towards himself. Care must be taken that no applicator marks are left in the finish.
- This procedure continues until entire surface is coated. It should not be hurried as the final appearance depends entirely on the care taken in this step.

Allow sufficient time to dry (2-4 hours usual). This may vary depending on atmospheric conditions particularly in winter. Allow plenty of ventilation. Lack of ventilation will extend the drying times.

### 3rd Coat

Steps (iii) and (v) are repeated. A third coat is only necessary if the timber is porous and the floor appearance is grainy or uneven.

*Note: After the final coat is applied the floor should be left for at least 72 hours to completely harden before activity take place on the floor. Remember this is a Sports Floor and correct footwear should be used at all times.*

## 3) ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE

The floor will now have a first class finish and proper *Routine Maintenance* will ensure that the floor remains in good condition during its lifetime.

### SQUASH COURTS

PEERLESS PRO Penetrating Seal provides an excellent safe playing surface for Squash. It has been used extensively for many years.

#### i) *Daily Maintenance*

The entire area should be swept with an electrostatic sweep mop (V-Sweep). It is important electrostatic sweep mops are kept clean.

*Note: Oil impregnated sweep mops must **not** be used as residue may be left which will cause slip hazards and interfere with re-application of seal coats.*

Spot mop any spillage using a solution of PEERLESS PRO Gymclean AD21 at 40:1 dilution rate i.e. 1 cup to 1/2 mop bucket of water. Do not over wet the floor with the mop.

Adequate matting must be placed in all entrance areas to trap dirt and grit before it gets to the timber floor.

#### ii) *Weekly Maintenance*

The floors should be mopped clean using a damp mop with PEERLESS PRO Gymclean AD21 at 40:1 dilution rate.

#### iii) *4 Times per Year*

The recommended procedure is as follows:

- Thoroughly scrub the entire floor surface with a solution of PEERLESS PRO Gymclean AD21 at a dilution rate 20:1 with a red pad fitted to a rotary floor polisher.
- The damage caused by water to timber floors is well known. It is important that a minimum of moisture contacts the floor surface.

*Note: The frequency of the operation depends on soilage. In winter it is likely that scrubbing will take place at least twice a month.*

### ***Annual Maintenance – Court Refurbishment***

The recommended procedure is as follows:

- Thoroughly scrub the entire floor surface with a solution of **PEERLESS PRO** Gymclean AD21 at a dilution rate 20:1 with a red pad fitted to a rotary floor polisher.
- The damage caused by water to timber floors is well known. It is important that a minimum of moisture contacts the floor surface.
- Allow to dry. Cut back entire floor with 150 grit Sandscreen Discs under a rotary polishing machine.
- Cut back all edges and corners. The entire floor should be swept with lint free cloths moistened with solvent to ensure removal of all dust.
- Apply one coat of **PEERLESS PRO** Penetrating Seal using the *“Two Man Method”*,
- *Fill seal tray with ¾ capacity*
- *Start in a corner and man 1 spreads the seal across the grain of the timber to a width of approximately 2 metres*
- *Man 2 soothes the seal in line with the grain ensuring an even coat. Man 2 at all times pulls the applicator towards himself. Care must be taken that no applicator marks are left in the finish.*
- *This procedure continues until entire surface is coated. It should not be hurried as the final appearance depends entirely on the care taken in this step.*

Allow 24 hours for the floor to dry and harden before activities commence. Allow plenty of ventilation. Lack of ventilation will extend the drying times.

While this procedure is designated annual it is likely that it will only be required every 2 years. It is totally dependent on the amount of traffic and the routine maintenance systems employed.

### ***RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS***

- **PEERLESS PRO** Penetrating Seal SE03
- **PEERLESS PRO** Gymclean AD21
- Electrostatic Sweep Mop - V - Sweeper
- Lambswool Applicator
- Cotton Mop
- Screenback Discs
- Bucket with Casters

### ***EQUIPMENT***

- Standard Speed Polishing Machine

### ***PEERLESS JAL TECHNICAL ADVICE***

Peerless JAL personnel who are fully trained and experienced are ready to offer advice and assistance. If there are any problems, doubts or a special requirement please consult our Company.

Advice given early will ensure costly rectification is not needed. Further, our personnel can advise on equipment to enable the routine maintenance procedures to be carried out in the most economical way.

*INFORMATION contained in this program is to the best of our knowledge accurate and reliable, however no guarantee is given nor intended as conditions of handling and use is beyond our control.*

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