

Wood Floor Adhesives: Which One To Use And Why?

Solvent-Based Adhesives - **WFR-930**

- This type of adhesive is the industry's standard because of its lower cost, strongest bond, easy spread, easy clean-up, and strongest initial grab.
- Originally a petroleum-based solvent, it has been reformulated with an alcohol base that is safe for the environment and one's health. Yet, it retains all the desired features of the original.
- Alcohol-based solvents lead the industry in having the strongest bond and shear strength to hold wood floors in place, especially during the normal seasonal changes to wood floors.
- Solvent has the strongest initial grab of any adhesive because it cures as it evaporates, resulting in virtually no hollow spots and less sliding that leaves gaps between boards.
- Solvent works best with engineered flooring.
- Solvents have mold, mildew, and antimicrobial preventatives to eliminate those problems.

Urethane-Based Adhesives - **PUM-950, PIC-850, PUK-455**

- Urethanes replaced solvent-based adhesives in the U.S. under an EPA mandate and when major manufacturers could not create a substitute for solvents.
- Urethanes are known for their strong bond and ability to stick to almost any surface.
- Good quality urethanes are typically more costly than a solvent-based adhesive. (NOTE: 'Acrylic urethanes' are not urethanes and do not have the same features. They are acrylic or water-based adhesives.)
- Urethanes require moisture to cure, thus taking longer to grab and potentially having hollow spots and sliding boards out of place during installation.
- Most urethanes are extremely difficult to remove from any surface and will etch pre-finished wood floors if left on their surface (PUM-950 will not etch - see container for details).
- Urethanes work equally well with engineered flooring and quality solid wood floors.
- Urethanes are waterproof when cured, antimicrobial, and mold resistant.

Polymer-Based Adhesives - **SMP-920, SMP-960**

- The latest technology in wood floor adhesives, polymers, are designed to overcome the etching caused by typical urethane adhesives and their difficult clean-up and spreading; they are easily cleaned and spread.
- Polymers require moisture to cure and are thus subject to the longer cure time, slower initial grab, hollow spots, and sliding of boards during installation, which is not an issue with solvents.
- Polymers are typically more costly than solvent or urethane-based adhesives.
- Their unique formulation allows them to prevent moisture penetration from the subfloor when applied using specific installation techniques.
- Polymers work equally well with engineered wood flooring and quality solid wood floors.
- Polymers are waterproof when cured, antimicrobial, and mold resistant.

Visit www.staufusa.com for more information, or call Technical Services at (901) 820-0007.