

The No1 Professionals Choice



“I won't do a solvent finish job even if I'm asked. Once I explain the negative impacts like ruining food and needing to stay away from their home for days while fumes dissipate, my customers see that water-based finishes are the better option.”

Shane Coaker
Peninsula Floor Sanding VIC

“I love the non-toxic aspect of water-based finishes and the look is more natural than solvent products.”

Michael Law
Coastwide Sanding QLD

“Why use a solvent finish? Water-based finishes look better, perform as well and there's no VOC's, so customers can stay in their house.”

Larry Hill
Hillspec Flooring WA

“We are acutely aware of the dangers in sanding dust and toxic solvent-based coatings. We want to create the safest environment for our staff and customers. We turn down all solvent finish work.”

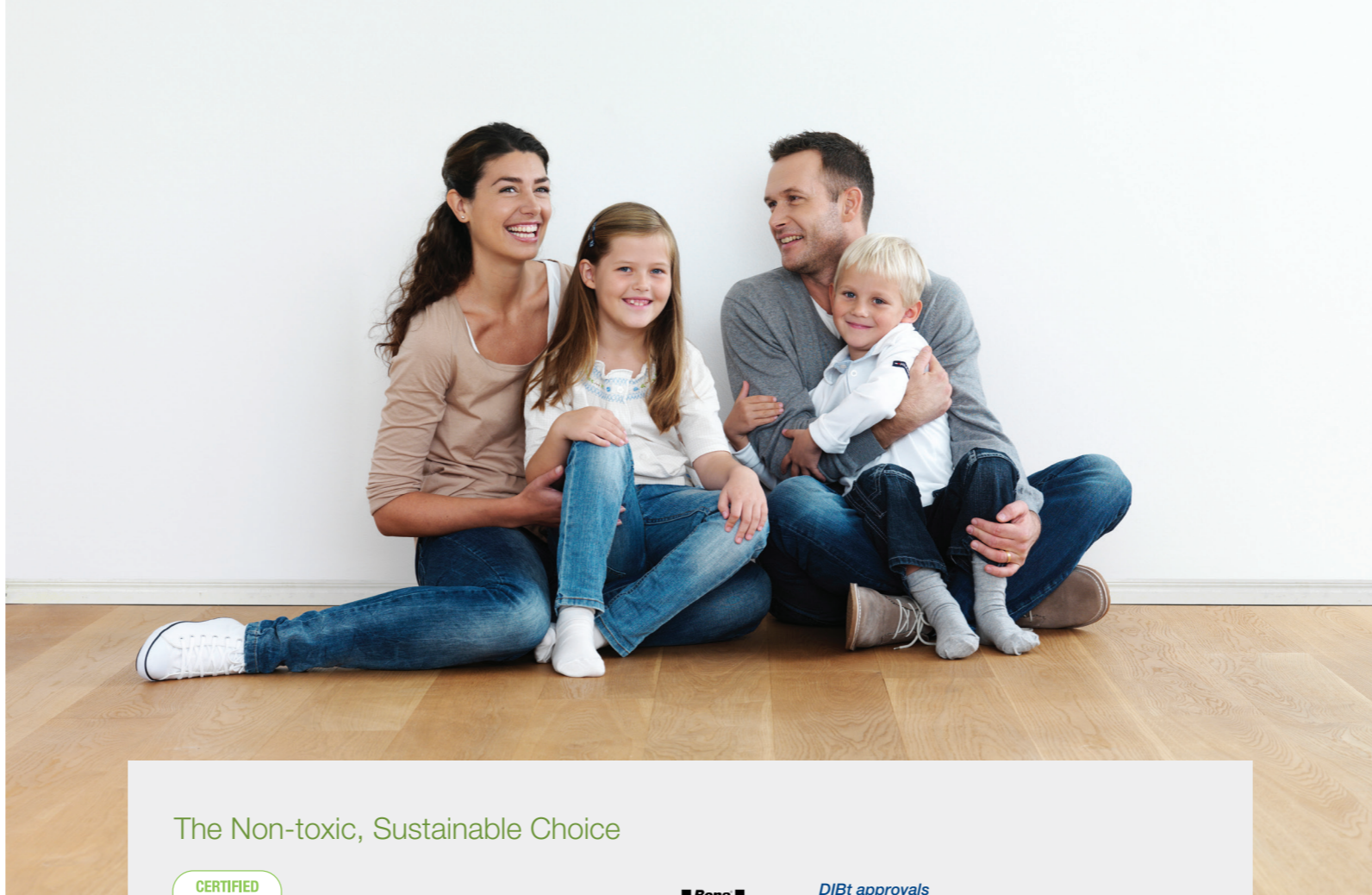
Darren Roberts
Aust Dustless Floorsanding VIC

“I use water-based for the safety and health of my customers. Families can move back in straight after the final coat, unlike a solvent finish where they need to stay away for days.”

Gerardo Iacullo
Iacullo Timber Flooring ACT

“I use water-based finishes for my own health, the environment and the look. There are a lot of reasons why I won't use solvent finishes.”

Liutus Gudiskis
Optimum Timber Flooring NSW



The Non-toxic, Sustainable Choice



GREENGUARD
Bona finishes are GREENGUARD indoor air quality certified, which means they are safe for use around your family and your pets. Green-guard certification is only awarded to extremely low emitting products meeting strict criteria.



EMICODE® EC1
The EMICODE® label is awarded to manufacturers after testing at recognised institutions based on scientific data. EMICODE® categorises flooring materials and building products into three emission classes, Bona's EC1 class reflects very low emissions.



DIBt approvals
DIBt is the German approvals and assessments body for building standards, used as the EU's main building construction directive. Bona water-based finishes are certified by DIBt to meet strict EU standards for low VOC levels.



NMP Free
Bona finishes are NMP free. N-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone (NMP) is a co-solvent used in the manufacture of some waterborne polyurethane dispersions which can cause painful skin and eye irritation.



ISO 14001 SWEDAC
Bona is accredited to ISO 14001 environmental management systems by BVQI and SWEDAC, the national environmental certification body in Sweden for assessing the competence of laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

Based in Sweden, Bona has long been recognised as the world leader in non-toxic water-based finishes for timber floors. Flooring professionals and home owners have relied on Bona since 1919, with Bona finishes now protecting millions of square metres of flooring in more than 90 countries.

For further information on water-based non-toxic floor finishes visit bona.com.au or call 1300 882 806



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Why use a Solvent finish?



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Solvent vs Water-based Floor Finishes

Solvent-based and water-based are the two main types of floor finishes currently available for timber floors. It is important to understand the differences so you can make an informed choice.

Solvent-based floor coatings are classified as poisons, carry serious health risks and are harmful to the environment. The technology for producing solvent-based finishes was first developed back in the 1950's. These products became accepted for coating timber floors as there were no better alternatives and the health risks of solvents and isocyanates were not understood. Nowadays solvent finishes are classified as poisons and with the advent of water-based technology are used less and less. In Europe (EU) and many other countries solvent finishes are either banned or severely restricted in use. In Australia, the use of solvent finishes in public buildings is restricted although contractors are still able to use them in private homes, often without informing customers of the health risks.

Water-based finishes are classified as non-toxic and are environmentally responsible products. They use water as the carrier for polyurethane dispersions. This technology provides excellent performance which is equal or in some cases even better than solvent finishes and at the same time retains the natural colour of the timber being coated.

In Australia, solvent finishes can still be used by contractors without having to provide detailed health and safety information on the risks these finishes present.

Consumers need to be well informed when choosing a floor finish in order to meet their performance and aesthetic expectations and at the same time protect the health of themselves and their family.

What are the health risks of solvent-based finishes?

Solvent finishes pose serious health risks. Some of the health effects related to short and long-term solvent exposure include:

- Chronic and Acute Asthma
- Sleep Apnea
- Clinical Depression, Aggressive Behaviour
- Impaired Fertility, Neurocognitive Development
- Memory Loss, Brain Damage
- Peripheral Nerve Conditions
- Increased Susceptibility to Cancers

What is a solvent-based finish?

Solvent-based polyurethane finishes were developed for timber floors back in the 1950's with chemical formulas that use solvents as the carriers for the polyurethane. Solvent finishes are classified as poisons and pose serious health risks.

What is a water-based finish?

Water-based finishes use water as the carrier for polyurethane dispersions. They are classified as non-toxic, produce no toxic fumes and contain no harmful chemicals. Water-based finishes retain the natural colour of timber and are easy to maintain.

What's the main difference?

The amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) which are emitted as gases during the curing process of the coating. VOC gases are toxic and flammable. Solvent coatings release high levels of VOC's posing serious health risks, with off-gassing continuing up to months after application. Water-based finishes emit such a low level of VOC's they are considered harmless.

How much VOC is in Bona finishes?

Most Bona finishes are below 80 grams per litre (g/Lt) VOC and none exceed 90g/Lt, well below the strict EU standard of 140g/Lt. Solvent finishes contain toxic VOC's of between 300-850g/Lt.

What are the regulations?

In Europe, where the EU controls VOC levels in building supplies, solvent based finishes are illegal to use by commercial contractors. In Australia, there is no such legislation in place. Solvents can be used by contractors with no health warnings required to protect home owners.

Which type of finish wears better?

The technology of water-based finishes provides equal or better wear resistance to solvent-based, with no toxic fumes or health risks.

Choose a non-toxic timber floor finish & protect your health.

Bona[®]



SOLVENT-BASED



- 300-850g/Lt VOC
- Solvent-based polyurethane
- Toxic hazardous chemicals & Isocyanates
- Classified as a poison



- Toxic fumes and Isocyanates
- Asthma, Headaches, Nausea, Respiratory irritation
- Impaired fertility, Nervous System Disorders, Insomnia, Depression, Anxiety, Fatigue
- Contaminates foodstuffs in fridge & pantry
- Requires toxic chemicals for clean-up
- Home owners should vacate home for up to 14 days due to toxic fumes off-gassing



- Plastic unnatural appearance
- Yellows
- Old technology, Designed for yesterday



WATER-BASED



- 40-90g/Lt VOC
- Water-based polyurethane
- No hazardous chemicals
- No health risk



- No toxic fumes
- GreenGuard Gold Certified
- No effect on fresh or stored foods
- Easy clean-up in water
- No need to vacate premises, Home owner can remain throughout application



- Beautiful, natural looking finish
- Non-yellowing
- Hard-wearing protection proven on millions of square metres



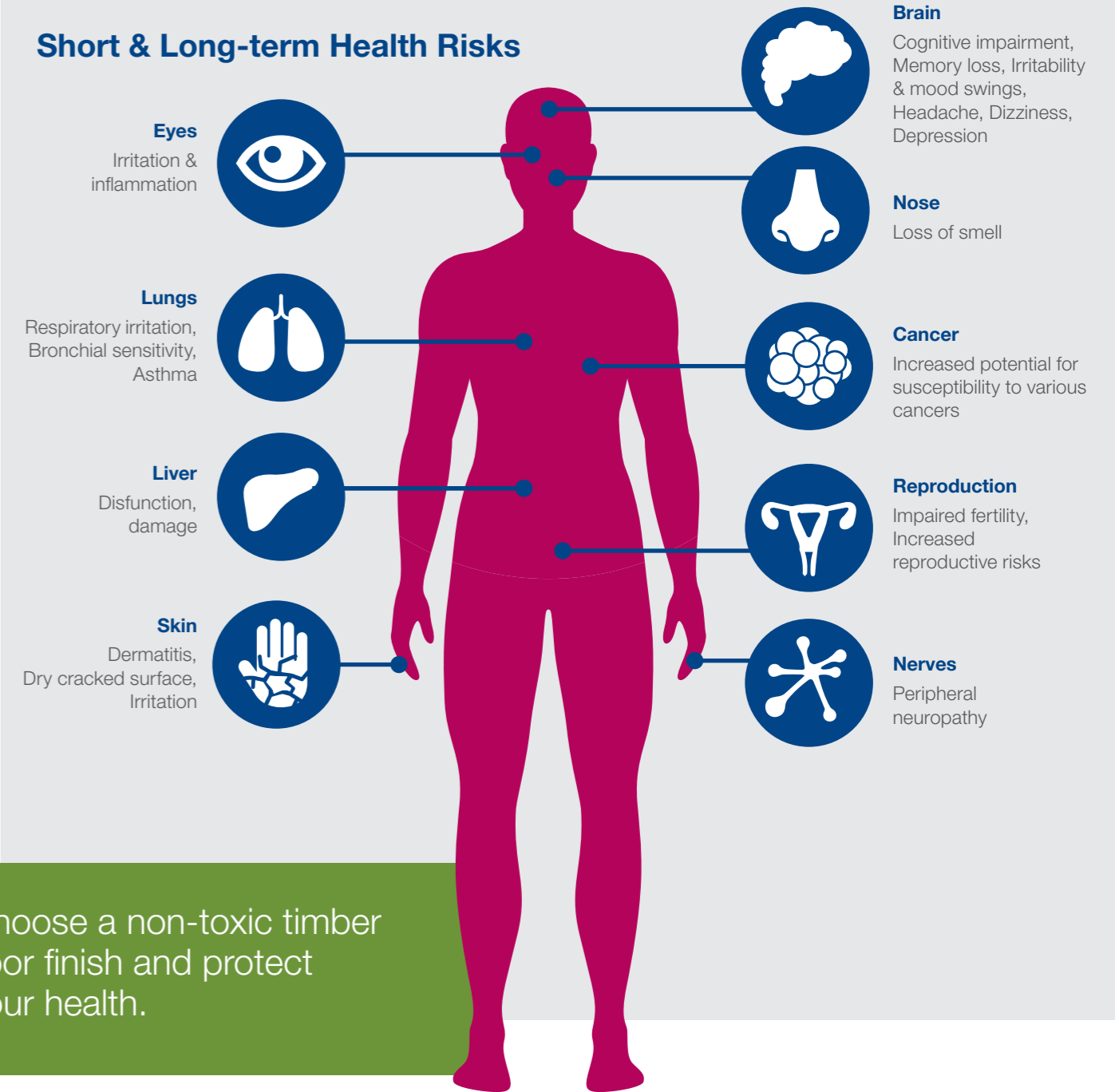
What are the health risks of solvent-based finishes?

The health effects associated with occupational exposure to solvents have long been recognised. Solvent based timber floor coatings are classified as toxic, carry serious health risks and are harmful to the environment. Classified as poisons, they are not only dangerous to those applying them but also to homeowners and other 'passive' users, in particular children and the elderly, who may be exposed to them.

Despite the use of solvent finishes being strictly restricted in Europe and other countries, and there being a greater health and safety awareness around chemicals in general, contractors in Australia are still using solvent finishes, placing themselves and their customer's at direct risk.

To protect you and your customers health, we recommend informing them of the dangers associated with solvent finishes and encouraging them to use a non-toxic water based finish system.

Short & Long-term Health Risks



Choose a non-toxic timber floor finish and protect your health.

Water-based coatings are non-toxic and environmentally responsible. Bona Sweden pioneered the development of water-based floor finishes in 1979 and is now the recognised world leader in non-toxic water-based coatings for timber floors.