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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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

Michael Law - Coastwide Sanding QLD

The Non-toxic, Sustainable Choice

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.



GREENGUARD

Bona finishes are GREENGUARD indoor air quality certified, which means they are safe for use around your family and your pets. Greenguard 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, 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.

Protect your family's health

How to choose a non-toxic timber floor finish



Bona®

Bona AB Malmö Sweden

For more information about the Bona range visit bona.com.au or call 1300 882 806

Bona® Bona leads the world in 100% water-based non-toxic floor finishes

Bona®

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



It is a consumer's choice to either use a solvent, or a water-based floor finish. Solvent-based timber floor coatings are toxic, carry serious health risks and are harmful to the environment. Bona water-based coatings are non-toxic and environmentally responsible. Bona pioneered the development of water-based floor finishes in 1979 and is the recognised world leader in non-toxic water-based coatings for timber floors.



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?

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, Birth Defects, Neurocognitive Development
- Memory Loss, Brain Damage
- Peripheral Nerve Conditions
- Increased Susceptibility to Cancers

What is a solvent-based finish?

Solvent-based polyurethane finishes were the standard choice for coating timber floors back in the 1950's. The technology is based on chemical formulas which 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 dispersion. 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.