

APPENDIX G

JOBSITE ENVIRONMENT

Before sanding either a new wood floor or an existing one, make sure the interior environment is at "normal living conditions." Check the moisture content of the wood floor before you begin sanding to ensure that it is within the normal range for that environment. Record the moisture content. You can use that moisture content for comparison later, when you are checking moisture content between coats of water-based finish.

Part I – Preparation and Inspection

Walk the Floor/Make Necessary Repairs

Before sanding, the floor should be swept and inspected carefully. The floor should be properly fastened or adhered to the substrate before sanding begins. Also, protruding nails should be countersunk.

Dust Containment

While dust cannot be completely eliminated from the sanding process, the flooring professional should take steps to minimize the dust. It is especially important in remodeling work, but also necessary on many new-construction jobs, to seal off the area with plastic. In addition, most floor-sanding equipment today is or can be equipped with dust-containment devices.

- If possible, use a fan to exhaust dust from the working area.
- All doorways should be sealed off.
- On some jobs, you may also want to protect the wall coverings and ceilings.
- If light fixtures are covered, fixtures should remain off. Tape switch in the off position if necessary.
- There are a variety of ways to hang plastic to seal off the area. Do not use fastening methods that will damage paint and wall coverings. Tape as much as possible to doorjamb instead of wall paint, and never tape to wall coverings such as wallpaper. Always check in an out-of-sight place that the tape will not cause damage.
- Also, protect other floor coverings from wood dust.
- In the doorways you must pass through, overlap plastic for an extra barrier.
- Be sure to protect HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) openings. While you are sanding, you may want to shut off the HVAC system. However, some climates will necessitate that the HVAC system be running while sanding operations are ongoing. In such cases, prefilter materials are available to cover HVAC returns. Check with a local HVAC contractor to determine which prefilter materials are appropriate.
- It is also essential to protect smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors, fire-alarm systems and elevator shafts, but remember to remove the dust protection before you leave the job site.
- Cover the openings of gas fireplaces and turn off the pilot light, as well as any auto-ignition devices associated with the fireplace.