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Standard Terminology Relating to Polishes and Related Materials¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Definitions of terms are specific to Committee D21 standards, and were added editorially in December 2021.

1. Referenced Documents

1.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

D2047 Test Method for Static Coefficient of Friction of Polish-Coated Flooring Surfaces as Measured by the James Machine

D4103 Practice for Preparation of Substrate Surfaces for Coefficient of Friction Testing

2. Terminology

GENERAL

buffable—the ability to improve the gloss or general appearance, or both, of a polish film by a mechanical action.

build-up—the condition resulting from a lack of self-sensitivity in an existing polish, whereby new film deposits over old, with little or no self-cleaning action.

burnishing—the enhancement of the existing polish appearance is accomplished by dry mechanical abrasion using a suitable machine and accessories.

cleaning—removal of visible marks, dust, and other extraneous materials from the surface.

coagulum—an agglomerate of particles grouped together by relatively weak mechanical or chemical affinities; usually designates the densest phase of a separated emulsion.

coating, n—a layer of any substance intentionally applied to a surface to modify its functional or decorative characteristics such as a polish.

creaming—the separation of a layer of an emulsion into separate, and discrete layers, with the less dense component of the emulsions migrating to the uppermost layer.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D21 on Polishes and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D21.91 on Terminology and Editorial Review.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

depth of gloss—the optical phenomenon of relative depth perceived when viewing reflective surfaces.

detergent resistance—the degree to which a polish film exhibits no apparent deterioration when spotted or cleaned with a solution of a nonabrasive, nonammoniacal detergent.

distinctness of image—degree of clarity exhibited by images reflected from a surface.

drag—physical resistance to mechanical spreading of a liquid polish.

dry bright polish—a polish that dries to a gloss without buffing.

ease of use—a subjective assessment of polish application properties, which includes variable elements of polish application drag, dry time, time between coat applications, gloss build on multicoat applications, dry time before exposure to traffic, polish, soil resistance, ease of cleaning, and ease of removal.

film clarity—characteristic of a deposited film, which permits an unobstructed view of the color and inherent design of the substrate.

gloss retention—maintenance of the gloss of a film under normal use conditions.

haze—film whose clarity is impaired with varying degrees of opacity; this denigration of film clarity is sometimes only evident with multi-coat applications of polish.

leveling—the property of a freshly spread polish to dry to a uniform and streak-free appearance.

mar—mutilation of polish film, repairable only by recoating.

nonvolatiles—materials remaining after the loss of volatile components.

polish—a temporary coating that enhances the appearance and may protect the substrate to which it is applied.

recoatability—the application characteristics of a polish and the appearance of the film after successive coatings to a surface.

soil—solid foreign matter, resulting from traffic embedded in or adhered on the surface.

speed relating to rotary disc floor machines—low speed: up to 800 r/min, high speed: more than 800 but less than 1500 r/min, and ultra high speed: 1500 r/min or more.

NOTE 1—Effectiveness of the floor machine depends upon machine weight and pad diameter as well as r/min.

spreading—the action of flowing out over a surface during application.

stain—discoloration by foreign matter.

streaking—nonuniform deposition of a polish film.

volatile solvent—a nonaqueous liquid that evaporates readily at room temperature and atmospheric pressure.

water beading—surface property that causes the formation of discrete water droplets on the dried polish surface.

water spotting—change in appearance of surface resulting solely from the action of cool water.

wetting—the property of a polish to uniformly and completely contact the solid surface to which it is applied; this property is a function of the surface tension of the liquid polish and the surface energy of the substrate, which may be dried polish film.

FLOOR POLISH

alkali soluble resin—low molecular weight, acid functional natural resins, modified natural resins, or synthetic copolymers characterized by forming a true solution in water when basified to pH 8 or greater, while being insoluble in water at pH 6 or lower.

DISCUSSION—When used in polish formulations, alkali soluble resins affect film formation, gloss, durability, hardness, wetting, leveling, water and alkali sensitivity, removability, and formulation color and stability.

beading—the apparent failure of the liquid polish to wet out the surface as evidenced by the gathering of the polish into puddle-like beads.

black marking—black marks on a flooring surface usually caused by the impact of the soles and heels of footwear.

buffing-type of floor polish—a floor polish that requires buffing to maintain or enhance appearance, or both.

drag—the resistance observed when the wet applicator is moved over the wet coating, when the polish is being spread.

foaming—the development and persistence of bubbles in the wet polish during application.

fracture—a rupture or break of the polish film (usually multiple).

ghosting—the dissimilar appearance, in transparency or gloss, of a portion of the coating.

powdering—partial or total disintegration of the polish film resulting in a fine, light-colored material.

rubber heel marking—the mechanical transfer of coloring matter from rubber heels to surfaces.

scratch—damage resulting from the movement of a hard pointed object.

scuff—disfigurement of polish film resulting from the abrading or scraping action repairable without recoating.

self-polishing-type floor polish—a floor polish that dries to a shine.

service life—the period of time required under use conditions to change the appearance of a surface treated with a floor polish sufficiently to require retreatment.

slip resistance—frictional force opposing movement of an object across a surface, usually with reference to the sole or heel of a shoe on a floor.

soil retention—the property of holding foreign matter in or on the surface after a cleaning process.

specular gloss—the ratio of reflected to incident light, times 100, for specified apertures of illumination and reception when the axis of reception coincides with the mirror image of the axis of illumination.

spray buffing—the restorative maintenance of a previously polished floor, by the action of a suitable floor polishing machine immediately following the mist-spraying of an appropriate product onto the surface whereby the wet application is buffed to dryness.

streaking—the apparent mark (or marks) that remains in the dried film showing the path followed by the applicator during the spreading of the liquid polish.

traffic marking—marring or discoloration, or both, of a floor surface by traffic.

water-emulsion floor polish—an emulsion-based floor polish in which water is the continuous or external phase and falling into two categories:

(1) **polymer-emulsion floor polish**—a water-emulsion floor polish containing a predominance of synthetic emulsion polymers.

(2) **wax-emulsion floor polish**—a water-emulsion floor polish containing a predominance of natural or synthetic waxes, or both.

wear—attrition of polish film resulting from normal use.

whitening—the development of a white color on or within a coating during the drying process, which reduces the functioning of a polish to beautify and (possibly) protect floors.

AUTOMOTIVE POLISH

automotive polish—liquid or paste formulation for cleaning and improving the appearance of automobile finishes.

automotive polish—substance which aids in cleaning and improving the appearance of automotive finishes.