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Standard Terminology Relating to Polishes and Related Materials¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

GENERAL

- buffable**—capable of improvement in gloss or general appearance, or both, of a polish film by a mechanical action.
- build-up**—condition resulting from lack of self-sensitivity in a polish, whereby new film deposits over old, with little or no self-cleaning action.
- burnishing**—enhancement of the appearance of a polish accomplished by dry mechanical abrasion with a suitable machine and accessories.
- cleaning**—removal of marks, dust, and other extraneous materials from the surface.
- coagulum**—an agglomerate of particles.
- creaming**—the separation of a layer of the dispersed phase of an emulsion polish to the surface of the liquid continuous phase.
- 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 spreading of a polish.
- dry bright polish**—a polish that dries to a gloss without buffing.
- ease of use**—cumulative effect of drag encountered in application or removal, or both, and the amount of time required to achieve the desired finish.
- film clarity**—characteristic of a deposited film which permits an unobstructed view of the substrate.
- gloss retention**—maintenance of gloss of a film under normal use conditions.
- haze**—film whose clarity is impaired with varying degrees of opacity.
- 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 embedded in or adhered on the surface.
- speed relating to rotary disc floor machines**—low speed: up to 800 R.P.M.; r/min , high speed: more than 800 R.P.M. but less than 1500 R.P.M.; r/min , and ultra high speed: 1500 R.P.M.; r/min or more.

NOTE 1—Effectiveness of the floor machine depends upon machine weight and pad diameter as well as R.P.M.; 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 polished 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 terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-21 on Polishes and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D21.91 on Terminology and Editorial Review.

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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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

AUTOMOTIVE POLISH

smear resistance—the ability of a polished surface to remain unscuffed when touched.

weatherability—the ability of a polished surface to resist the effects of exposure.

FURNITURE POLISH

bloom—a condition in which moisture has condensed upon and is being trapped by a polish film, rendering a haze over the surface.

bronzing—reflection of reddish-brown highlights from surface, characteristic of nonuniformly deposited film.

healing—the ability of a polish film to return to original state after being disturbed by fingerprints, marks, etc.

islanding—a phenomenon that occurs when applied film is not adequately anchored, resulting in migration of film-forming materials to myriads of small pools scattered over the surface and surrounded by completely uncoated areas.

mottling—physical migration of polish film from smooth, even distribution at time of application to small discrete pools of material, resulting in a blotchy or spotty appearance.

tack—sticky, gummy character of a polish film, rendering the surface conducive to dust accumulation, fingerprinting, etc.

wicking—absorption of film by materials allowed to rest on polished substrate, for example, felt pads on bottoms of decorator pieces.

SHOE POLISH

abrasion resistance—the ability of the polished shoe finish to withstand scuff marks versus the nonpolished shoe finish.

color stability—the ability of the applied coating color to resist fading from exposure to sunlight and water.

dry crock—same as wet crock without using water.

flexibility—the ability of applied shoe polish to flex and bend in creases of the shoe without powdering, peeling, or cracking, and without damaging the shoe finish.

hiding—the ability of the applied polish to cover scuff marks made by scratches in the shoe finish.

powdering—a phenomenon that occurs in the creases of shoes during wear when polish film does not have adequate flexibility and breaks up into small powdery particles.