

FAQ'S About Recoating

How do I know if my floors can be recoated?

As long as the floors have not been waxed with either paste or acrylic waxes, they should be a candidate for recoating. This is especially true of floors that have been refinished over the last 30 years. There are some simple tests that a contractor can perform to determine if either form of wax is on the floor. And to make doubly sure, you can always ask for a test to be done.

Does recoating remove indentations, gouging and water damage?

Indentations or gouging from furniture and other sources will not be removed by recoating. These damaged spots will blend in better and not catch your eye so quickly but they will still be there. With water damage, if the damage is limited to the finish only, then there is a good chance you can repair it without it being too noticeable. If the damage is down in the wood (discoloration) then it is permanent and recoating will not necessarily make it look better.

What is the difference between a regular sanding & finishing vs. recoating?

I often describe recoating as being somewhat cosmetic. You leave the old finish intact and work on improving the appearance of what is already there. It is like applying a fresh coat of paint to a wall that has hand prints and dirt from years of use. Sanding is much more extreme and grinds off everything to get down to the raw wood.

How does recoating compare in terms of the cost & time?

My rates for recoating are about half to a third of what I normally charge for refinishing a floor. Prices start at \$1.85/sf and can go up. Time wise, again you are looking at a fraction of what sanding and finishing requires. But the real plus is how little it impacts your lifestyle. There is no dust. Work is performed around homeowner's schedules so that all areas are available every morning and every evening.

How can I tell if a contractor is qualified to recoat a floor?

Successful recoating is done using cleaners and bonding agents so you need to be dealing with someone familiar with these products. These chemicals are safe and environmentally responsible. Most successful recoats do not involve "screening" the surface. Screening is a shortcut too many contractors rely on and it often results in problems. Make sure to ask for references.

Any suggestions for a finish when I recoat?

Waterborne finishes are head and shoulders above any other finishes on the market today. They are durable, easily maintained and have unbelievable drying and curing times. If I put waterborne finish on your kitchen floors in the morning, you are walking on it in two hours and can easily prepare your evening meal in your own kitchen. 24 hours after the finish is applied, it is 90% cured. I make two applications of finish to all recoating projects.