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Flooring Definitions/Commonly Used Terms

Ambient Temperature: Current air temperature.

Back rolling: The process of using a roller frame and cover to finish roll a coating.

Blush: An oily film left on an epoxy floor after curing. Often caused by high humidity or temperature deviations between substrate and ambient air temperature.

Broadcasting: The process of distributing media (i.e. quartz aggregate, vinyl flakes, etc.)

Broadcast to Rejection: Media broadcast into a wet matrix until surface does not show wetness of resinous layers below. Total coverage over the wet coating is achieved using the media.

Cant: A 45 degree wedge installed at the transition between wall to floor, wall to wall, ceiling to wall to eliminate 90 degree angles

CARB: "California Air Resources Board" – governing body for California that sets limits on VOC, HAPS, etc. for projects within California. Typically these standards are the most stringent of any in the US.

Centipoise: The unit of measure for the viscosity of liquids.

Compressive Strength: The amount of resistance of a material to fracture under compression

Cove Base: A radius installed at the transition between wall and floors to create a monolithic (one piece) floor system.

Cutting In: Trimming around columns, posts, stairs or around the walls.

Elongation: The process of lengthening due to stretching.

EPC: Epoxy Polymer Concrete, a combination of epoxy resin and aggregates.

Film Thickness: The measured thickness of a fluid applied coating. DFT=Dried Film Thickness and WFT=Wet Film thickness.

Fish Eyes: Separation blisters usually caused by a surface contaminant.

HAPs: Hazardous Air Pollutants.

Keying In: Removing a portion of the concrete substrate to create a durable termination point of fluid applied coatings.



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Laitance: Milky white “cream” substance on the top of concrete.

LEED: Leadership Energy Environmental Design

MSDS: Material Safety Data Sheet

MVTR: Moisture Vapor Transmission Rate

Neat Coat: One layer of coating applied without any aggregate.

Orange Peel: A texture achieved by using a higher viscosity coating, or a larger nap roller cover.

Out-gassing: The process of entrapped or developing gasses being released from a coating during cure.

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment i.e. safety glasses, ear plugs, gloves etc..

Pot Life: The amount of time a mixed material will stay fluid.

Preconditioning Material: Allowing materials to reach a certain temperature prior to installation.

Re-coat Time: The time in between coats where one coat can be applied to the previous coat.

Shear Cup Test: A test performed to determine a coatings ability to adhere to a substrate.

Shot-blasting: Mechanically profiling a substrate using steel shot, propelled against the surface at a high velocity to achieve a surface profile.

Surface Profile: The texture of the substrate achieved to insure proper bonding.

Substrate: The surface to which a coating is applied, i.e. concrete, wood, gypsum etc.

Tack-Free: The stage at which a coating is cured and no longer feels sticky to the touch.

Tensile Strength: The maximum stress that a material can withstand without breaking or tearing.

Viscosity: The material property that measures a fluid's resistance to flowing.

VOCs: Volatile Organic Compounds

Working Time: The amount of time that exists between catalyzing (or initial application) and when a coating sets to the point of no longer being able to be applied or worked normally