

Safety – Sand & Finish

Safety is an important consideration when performing a wood flooring sand and finish job. In many areas, it is required by law that crews have adequate safety equipment when performing work considered to be hazardous.

Many of the solvents used and the dust created during the sand and finish process are known carcinogens. Exposure to these materials can cause sensitization, dermatitis, allergic respiratory effects, mucosal and non-allergic respiratory effects, and cancer. To minimize potential risks, personal protective equipment should be worn.



Respirators

Respirators minimize exposure to contaminants from the air. Protective devices must be NIOSH approved and can include disposable particulate respirators, which filter out airborne particles like wood dust, and half- and full-facepiece elastomeric respirators with cartridges or canisters, which filter out gases and vapors from finish and adhesive solvents.

Hearing Protection

Hearing protection minimizes exposure to high-decibel tools. Each device has a noise reduction rating that signifies the decibel reduction capability of the device. Protection devices can include ear plugs and ear muffs.

Eye Protection

Eye protection minimizes exposure to chemical and environmental irritants. Protective devices can include eye glasses, safety glasses, safety goggles, face shields and full face masks.

UV Light Protection

UV light protection minimizes exposure to UVA and UVB light rays. Protective devices can include eyewear, face shielding, SPF 50+ sunscreen, long pants, long sleeves, gloves, and shoes.

Skin Protection

Skin protection minimizes exposure to chemicals. Protective devices can include disposable gloves.

Knee Protection

Knee protection minimizes exposure to knee injuries. Protective devices can include knee pads.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers minimize the risk of catastrophic fires. These should be kept in your work vehicle and present on every job site. Class ABC fire extinguishers are necessary on wood flooring job sites. These can be used for fires caused by liquids, vapors, or electrical malfunctions.

Dust Collection Bin

Dust collection bins minimize the risk of spontaneous combustion. Wood dust can combust when it reaches a high enough temperature and is exposed to oxygen. Disposing of wood dust in a proper dust collection bin can prevent this from occurring.