> *We are acutely aware of the dangers in sanding dust and toxic solvent-based coatings. We want to create the safest environment for our staff and customers. We turn down all solvent finish work.*
>
> **Darren Roberts** - Aust Dustless Floorsanding VIC

> *I won't do a solvent finish job even if I'm asked. Once I explain the negative impacts like ruining food and needing to stay away from their home for days while fumes dissipate, my customers see that water-based finishes are the better option.*
>
> **Shane Coaker** - Peninsula Floor Sanding VIC

> *Why use a solvent finish? Water-based finishes look better, perform as well and there's low VOC's, so customers can stay in their house.*
>
> **Larry Hill** - Hillspec Flooring WA

> *Over and above the obvious health benefits, water-based finishes just look better. The colour of the finish stays true. If the homeowner has a blonde floor, they don't want the finish to yellow like solvent coatings do and turn the floor orange.*
>
> **Ander Hagberg** - Skandi Flooring NSW

> *I use water-based finishes for my own health, the environment and the look. There are a lot of reasons why I won't use solvent finishes.*
>
> **Liutus Gudiskis** - Optimum Timber Flooring NSW

> *I love the non-toxic aspect of water-based finishes and the look is more natural than solvent products.*
>
> **Michael Law** - Coastwide Sanding QLD

Bona leads the world in water-based floor finishes

Why Bona floor finishes are a safer choice

Based in Sweden, Bona has long been recognised as the world leader in water-based finishes for timber floors. Bona's range of finishes are certified to the worlds most stringent standards for low VOC content, environmental management and indoor air quality.

EMICODE®

Bona finishes are certified to strict EMICODE® regulations for VOC levels on floor coatings, with many attaining the most stringent classification of EC1PLUS.

GEV-EMICODE EC 1 PLUS very low emission — *< 3% VOC*

GEV-EMICODE EC 1 very low emission — *< 5% VOC*

GEV-EMICODE EC 2 low emission — *< 8% VOC*

ISO 14001 SWEDAC

Bona is accredited to ISO 14001 environmental management systems by BVQI and SWEDAC, the national environmental certification body in Sweden for assessing the competence of laboratories, certification and inspection bodies.

BVQI ISO 14001 — SWEDAC ACKREDITERING

GREENGUARD

Bona's finishes are GreenGuard indoor air quality certified, which means they are safe for use around your home, your family and your pets.

CERTIFIED LOW CHEMICAL EMISSIONS — UL GREENGUARD

Who is Bona?

- The market leader in water-based timber floor finishes globally
- Bona products are available in over 90 countries
- The No1 choice for professional contractors
- Experts in floor coatings & cleaning products since 1919

Bona®

Bona AB Malmö Sweden

Solvent Vs Water-Based_Ed3_10/26

Protect your health

How to choose a safer timber floor finish



Bona®

Protect your health with water-based timber floor finishes.

Solvent-based timber floor coatings are toxic, carry serious health risks and are harmful to the environment. Water-based coatings contain lower VOCs and have no toxic fumes. Bona pioneered the development of water-based floor finishes in 1979 and is the recognised world leader in coatings for timber floors.

SOLVENT-BASED

- 300-850g/Lt VOC
- Solvent-based polyurethane
- Hazardous chemicals & Isocyanates
- Classified as a poison

- Toxic fumes and Isocyanates
- Asthma, Headaches, Nausea, Respiratory irritation
- Contaminates foodstuffs in fridge & pantry
- Homeowners should vacate home for up to 14 days due to toxic off-gassing
- Impaired fertility, Nervous System Disorders, Insomnia, Depression, Anxiety, Fatigue from long-term use
- Requires toxic chemicals for clean-up

- Plastic unnatural appearance
- Old technology, designed for yesterday
- Yellows over time, floors turn orange



WATER-BASED

- 24-90g/Lt VOC
- Water-based polyurethane
- No hazardous chemicals
- No health risk

- No toxic fumes
- GreenGuard and EMICODE® Certified
- No effect on stored foodstuffs
- No need to vacate premises, Homeowners can remain in the home throughout application
- Easy clean-up in water

- Beautiful, natural looking finish
- Hard-wearing protection proven on millions of square metres
- Non-yellowing, unaffected by UV light



The health risks of solvent-based finishes.

Exposure to solvent finishes poses serious health risks including the following short and long-term effects:

- Chronic and Acute Asthma
- Headaches, Nausea, Respiratory Irritation
- Sleep Apnea
- Clinical Depression, Aggressive Behaviour
- Impaired Fertility, Birth Defects, Neurocognitive Development
- Memory Loss, Brain Damage
- Peripheral Nerve Conditions
- Increased Susceptibility to Cancers

What is a solvent-based finish?

Solvent-based polyurethane finishes were the standard choice for coating timber floors back in the 1950s. The technology is based on chemical formulas which use solvents as the carriers for the polyurethane. Solvent finishes are classified as poisons and pose serious health risks.

What is a water-based finish?

Water-based finishes use water as the carrier for polyurethane dispersion. They produce no toxic fumes, contain no harmful chemicals and have no hazardous warnings. There are no health risks associated with Water-based finishes or their ongoing maintenance.

What's the main difference?

The amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) which are emitted as gases during the curing process of the coating. VOC gases are toxic and flammable. Solvent coatings release high levels of VOC's posing serious health risks, with off-gassing continuing up to months after application. Water-based finishes emit such a low level of VOC's they are considered harmless.

How much VOC is in Bona finishes?

Bona finishes contain as little as 24g/Lt VOC and none exceed 90g/Lt, well below the strict EU standard of 140g/Lt. Solvent finishes contain massive VOC levels of between 300-850g/Lt!

Are there regulations for use of floor finishes?

Yes, in Europe the EU controls VOC levels in building supplies & solvent finishes are illegal for use by commercial contractors. In Australia, there is no such legislation in place. Solvents can be used by contractors with no health warnings required and no protections in place for home owners.

Which type of finish wears better?

Water-based finish technology provides equal or better wear resistance to solvent-based, with no toxic fumes or health risks.