

TECH TIPS

(By Steve Marley)

HOW TO REMOVE GLUE RESIDUE FROM YOUR FLOORS SURFACE

Glue Removal at a Glance:

Could this have been prevented?

After completion of the installation there is no reason to have any glue, or glue residue on the floors surface. The key to a residue free finish is for the installer to clean as he goes (i.e. install five or six feet stop and wipe down the floor with a “white” cotton rag **thoroughly** moistened with odorless mineral spirits, wiping in the direction of the grain).

What happens if the glue/residue is completely dry, can it still be removed?

The answer is yes! In most cases it can be successfully removed, but precautionary measures must be taken in order to avoid damaging the floors “protective” urethane finish. The following are dos and don’ts for removing glue/residue from a floors surface:

Dos:

- First and foremost, identify the type/brand of glue used to attach the flooring to the sub straight (i.e. Latex/water base - Acrylic/water base – MS Polymer or Urethane base glue.)
- Contact the adhesive manufacturer for recommended process and procedures for removing dried on glue/residue from a floors surface
- Otherwise the following methods have resulted in satisfactory results:
 1. For Latex and Acrylic base adhesives consult with the adhesive manufacturer for advice in the proper way to remove these types of adhesives since Johnson does **not** condone their use.
 2. For MS polymer adhesives consult with the adhesive manufacturer for advice in the proper way to remove this type of adhesive.
 3. For Urethane base adhesives the following method has proven successful in removing dried on glue and glue residue: (1st) thoroughly dampen a “white” cotton rag with **odorless** paint thinner and gently rub over the glue/glue residue until you have completely removed the glue/glue residue from the floors surface. Note: During this process you will notice that as the glue is being removed, the rag will become soiled so you will need to flip the rag over and then inside out utilizing all sections of the clean rag. If this is not done, you will smear a fine film of glue over the floors surface. (2nd) using the same type cotton rag, wipe any remaining paint thinner from the floor. (3rd) once you have successfully removed the glue from the floor (using the paint thinner), you may notice a filmy residue on the floors surface. What this is is the oil from the paint thinner, but rest assure it is simply removed by

wiping down the floor with a white cotton rag dampened with denatured alcohol. (4th) clean the entire surface of the floor with a manufacturer approved wood flooring cleaner (i.e. Bona wood/laminate cleaner – Armstrong wood/laminate cleaner – Mannington wood/laminate cleaner – Basic Coatings “Squeaky” Clean, wood/laminate cleaner).

Don'ts:

- Never use a sharp object (i.e. knife, razor blade, scrapers, or a steel putty knife) to remove glue/glue residue from a floors surface, doing so can cause damage to the protective urethane finish.
- Never use lacquer thinner, Acetone, MEK, Naphtha, Ammonia, Simple Green, waxes, oil soaps, sprays of any kind, detergents, or any other solvent or cleaning product on your wood floor, doing so can cause damage to the protective urethane finish.
- **When rubbing back and forth with the dampened rag, be careful not to rub to hard, by doing so can/will result in a burnishing mark. This will appear as a shinny spot on the floor, which is not irreversible.**

CAUTION: WHEN USING SOLVENTS TO REMOVE GLUE/GLUE RESIDUE FROM A FLOORS SURFACE, PROVIDE PLENTY OF VENTILLATION TO THE WORK AREA, WEAR PROTECTIVE GLOVES AND ALWAYS DISPOSE OF USED RAGS IN A SAFE MANNER (I.E.ACCORDING TO LOCAL CITY/COUNTY/STATE REGULATIONS). NOTE: IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE, PLACE RAGS IN A BUCKET OF WATER IN ORDER TO PREVENT SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION. IN ADDITION, KEEP KIDS AND PETS AWAY FROM THE WORK AREA.