

## Tips and tricks for a perfect finish: from the manufacturers

“Next we have the oil-based pigment stains,” says David. “These stains have been around for a number of years, growing more in popularity in the last five or six years. With these stains you have to be very particular with your sanding, finishing up to a 150# screen, and being careful not to leave any sanding scratches in the floor.”

Some contractors will apply these with a slow speed buffer, which helps on large jobs, while most jobs can be ragged on and ragged off.

Angela Petruzzi from Livos says that some of the issues that may occur if sanding and oiling are not carried out to specifications include the appearance of chatter marks or swirl marks, highlighted by the pigment. “If excess oil is not removed, the floor may become sticky or tacky. Further problems may occur if the floor is completed too early in the building or renovation stage and becomes scratched or damaged.”

To avoid and rectify these issues, Angela has the following recommendations: “If the oil has been left on too long, apply more oil to the floor, work it in with a white pad and remove the excess with a cloth underneath a Canterbury or Polyvac. If the oil has been left overnight or longer, go over the entire area with a maroon pad and re-oil, remembering to wipe off the excess. If it is necessary to complete a stained floor prior to other trades having finished, cover the floor area with POP paper or reschedule to do the floor last.”