

# PRODUCT & APPLICATION FAQ OVERVIEW

## POLYWHEY® PROFESSIONAL WOOD FLOOR FINISHING



### PRODUCT FAQ:

**Q: Why is PolyWhey better than other water-based finishes?**

**A:** PolyWhey has greater durability, with a cured hardness that is twice that of the average water-based finish. The PolyWhey 3500 has 65% less VOC content than the standard that most water-based finishes try to meet, while the PolyWhey EZ-PRO has 23% less VOCs than the standard. PolyWhey accomplishes this by using whey, a natural, renewable resource, as its bonding agent.

**Q: What makes PolyWhey a “green” product?**

**A:** PolyWhey patented formulations use whey protein as a bonding agent. Whey is a renewable resource and a natural by-product of the dairy industry. This use of a natural product in our professional finishes translates to low VOCs, and better indoor air quality.

**Q: What is whey?**

**A:** Whey is a by-product of the dairy industry, specifically of cheese making, and can be used as a supplement in food products. Whey protein is naturally adhesive, so it helps make a strong bond to the wood surface and a lasting film. Our whey is very high in protein content. When used in our Wood Floor Finishes, whey displaces the toxic ingredients traditionally used in wood finish by functioning as the co-binder and co-solvent.

**Q: What does “VOC” stand for, and why should they be considered?**

**A:** VOCs, or Volatile Organic Compounds, evaporate into the air from many substances. These off-gasses contribute to smog production and health problems from inhalation. Petroleum products, like oil-based finishes, have harmful levels of these VOCs and are easily identifiable by their noxious smell.

**Q: Is it possible to have a different level of gloss?**

**A:** Yes; PolyWhey EZ-PRO is available in matte, semi-gloss, and satin, and PolyWhey 3500 is available in matte, semi-gloss and satin. Both products are available in both one and 5-gallon containers.

**Q: What is the VOC level of PolyWhey Wood Floor Finishes?**

**A:** The VOC level for PolyWhey EZ-PRO is 210 g/L (grams per liter), while the VOC level for the PolyWhey 3500 and MVP Sport Floor Finish is 95 g/L. All three products surpass California’s requirement of VOC ≤ 275g/L, the toughest indoor air quality standard for wood finishes in the United States.

Continued on reverse.

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Visit [www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com](http://www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com)  
for videos, instructions, technical data, safety information,  
case studies, and more.

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### APPLICATION FAQ:

#### Q: How is it applied?

**A:** PolyWhey Floor Finishes can be applied using standard application methods for water-based finishes with a T-Bar, roller or paint pad.

For complete instructions please refer to separate Technical Data and Installation Guide.

#### Q: How do I prepare a surface for a PolyWhey Wood Floor Finish?

**A:** Sand new and existing floors by following accepted NWFA guidelines. For existing floors, all old finish must be removed. Grit selection for final sanding will vary by species and whether stain will be applied. For smoothest and best overall finish, final sanding with a 120 grit screen is recommended. For recoating existing floors, check first for the presence of wax or acrylic polishes and if present, follow NWFA guidelines for proper testing and complete removal. Clean floor thoroughly with VNC Wood Cleaner. For best results, abrade the floor with a 150 grit pad and strip. Be sure to vacuum and tack floors before application. For complete instructions, please refer to separate Technical Data and Installation Guide.

#### Q: Do I need to use the PolyWhey 3000 Sealer on bare wood?

**A:** PolyWhey floor finishes can be applied without the use of sealer, however it is recommended to first seal with the PolyWhey 3000 Sealer as its use will minimize grain raise, giving the smoothest possible finish and minimizing tannin pull on white oak.

#### Q: What is the pot life of the PolyWhey finish?

**A:** Because no hardeners or catalysts are needed there is no limited pot life. Any surplus finish can be reused if kept in a properly sealed container for up to one year from date of manufacture.

#### Q: Do I need to stir or shake the finish before use?

**A:** Yes, the finish should be stirred thoroughly before each use. One-gallon containers should be stirred and shaken (after stirring). 5-gallons pails may be stirred either by hand or with an electric mixing paddle.

#### Q: Can PolyWhey Wood Floor Finishes be applied over stain?

**A:** PolyWhey Professional Floor Finishes can be applied over most professional floor stains, but always first test a small area for compatibility. PolyWhey EZ-PRO, 3500 and MVP finishes can be applied directly over stain without use of Polywhey 3000 sealer. Follow stain manufacturers guidelines for stain dry times and finish application and always confirm surface is ready for topcoating.

#### Q: How fast do PolyWhey Professional Wood Floor Finishes dry?

**A:** Under normal conditions and with good ventilation, treated wood will be dry and ready for use or recoating in 1.5 to 2 hours. Allow 1 week for full product cure.

#### Q: Does it yellow when exposed to UV light?

**A:** Our interior finishes will stay clear when exposed to interior UV light.

#### Q: How do I maintain PolyWhey Professional Floor Finishes after installation?

**A:** Vacuum or sweep floor as needed and clean periodically with VNC Wood Floor Cleaner. For more information on this product, please visit [www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com](http://www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com).

#### Q: Can PolyWhey Wood Floor Finishes be applied over quick-dry and universal sealers?

**A:** PolyWhey finishes can be applied over most solvent based sealers that are properly cured. Always test for compatibility prior to application.

#### Q: Can PolyWhey Wood Floor Finishes be applied over any type of finish when recoating a floor?

**A:** PolyWhey Finishes can be applied over most water-based and solvent based finishes that are fully cured. Follow guidelines for proper preparation of existing finishes for recoating and always test for compatibility prior to installation.

#### Q: Can masking tape be applied to a freshly coated floor (ie. to protect the floor from painting baseboards and trim)?

**A:** When installing a new floor, we recommend covering the entire surface with paper during construction or renovation, using a quick-release tape (ie. 15 day or less) that is specified for use on floor finishes, and only taping paper to paper (**never tape to new finish**). PolyWhey Wood Floor Finishes must be fully cured before tape can be applied directly, which takes approximately one week.

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