HOW TO REMOVE GLUE RESIDUE FROM FLOORING SURFACES

After the floor installation is complete there is no reason to have glue residue on the floor’s surface. The key to a residue free finish is for the installer to clean as he goes. This is accomplished by wiping down the floor every five to six feet during the install with a “white” cotton rag, thoroughly moistened, with odorless mineral spirits and with 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 and residue from a floors surface:

**Dos:**
- Identify the type or 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 the recommended procedure for removing dried on glue residue from a floor’s 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.

**Residue Removal Method for Urethane Base Adhesives**

(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. This is the oil from the paint thinner. Simply remove 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 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 too hard, doing so will result in a burnishing mark. This will appear as a shiny spot on the floor, and is permanent.

CAUTION: WHEN USING SOLVENTS TO REMOVE GLUE/GLUE RESIDUE FROM A FLOORS SURFACE, PROVIDE PLENTY OF VENTILATION 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.