



COMMERCIAL FLOOR CARE

# VCT Finish Layer Count Field Reference Card

On-floor decision guide: optimal coat counts, strip triggers, COF thresholds, and application rules.

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SECTION 01

# Coat Count Quick Reference

## Standard Acrylic Zinc (17–19% Solids)

Traffic	Optimal Range	Strip Trigger	Recoat Interval
Low	3–5 coats	8+ coats	1–2 coats / 12 months
Medium	5–6 coats	9+ coats	2 coats / 6–8 months
High	6–7 coats	10 coats	2 coats / 3–4 months
Extreme	7 coats	10 coats	2 coats / 6–8 weeks

## High-Solids Acrylic (22–27% Solids)

Traffic	Optimal Range	Strip Trigger
Low	2–3 coats	6 coats
Medium	3–4 coats	6–7 coats
High	4–5 coats	7–8 coats

## Burnishing Response by Coat Count

Coats	Post-Burnish Gloss	Rating
1-2	22-34 GU	Poor — do not burnish
3	60 GU	Fair — low traffic only
4-5	74-82 GU	Good — standard commercial
6-7	88-90 GU	Excellent — optimal range
10+	66-82 GU	Degraded — strip cycle needed
12+	<66 GU	Strip mandatory

## SECTION 02

# Application Rules

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- Temperature: floor, air, and product all  $\geq 16^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $60^{\circ}\text{F}$ )
- Relative humidity: 35–65% RH — check before every application
- Surface: scrubbed clean, pH 6.5–7.5, fully dry
- Application: cross-directional mop pattern, thin even coat
- Coverage: 1,500–2,000 sq ft per litre per coat — do not over-apply
- Dwell time between coats: minimum 30 minutes dry time (45 min if RH  $< 40\%$ )
- No burnishing within 24 hours of recoat application
- Log every coat: date, product, operator, zone, coat number

## Winter Application Restrictions (Northern Ontario)

- Do not apply if indoor RH  $< 35\%$  without supplemental humidification
- Add 15 minutes to dwell time at temperatures  $16\text{--}18^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Run HVAC at full heat 2 hours before and during application
- Restrict winter applications to May–September if scheduling allows

## SECTION 03

# Strip Triggers Checklist

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- Coat count at or above program maximum (see Section 01 tables)
- Finish yellowing or browning that does not respond to burnishing
- Delamination — coats peeling in patches or sheets
- Burnishing fails to develop gloss above 55 GU
- New coats crazing, fisheye, or peeling within 48 hours of application
- Dark trapped-soil lines visible in finish that do not mop out
- COF test fails in a zone that previously passed
- Annual strip cycle is 12+ months overdue for medium/high traffic

## Strip Sequence Quick Reference

- 1** **Clear and pre-mop**  
Remove furniture; dry-mop grit; neutral cleaner mop.
- 2** **Flood-apply stripper**  
Full-concentration flood; 5–10 min dwell; keep wet.
- 3** **Scrub with stripping pad**  
175–300 RPM machine; overlapping passes.
- 4** **Wet-vac slurry immediately**  
Do not let slurry dry — it re-bonds.

- 5** **Rinse twice + neutralize**  
Plain water rinse; then pH 6.0–7.0 neutralizer.
- 6** **Check pH 6.5–7.5**  
Verify with test strip before base seal.
- 7** **Inspect tiles**  
Repair all lifted, cracked, or loose tiles.
- 8** **Apply 1 base seal coat**  
Allow full dry before any finish coats.
- 9** **Apply finish per program**  
Use zone-specific coat count from Section 01.

SECTION 04

# COF Compliance Thresholds

Zone Type	Required COF	Standard
Dry commercial floor	0.50 static dry	OSHA 29 CFR 1910.22
Wet/moisture-exposed zone	0.50 static wet	NFPA 101
Accessible route (Canada)	0.60 static dry	CSA B651-12
Healthcare wet area (Ontario)	0.60 static wet	Ontario Building Code
Food service wet area	0.60 static wet	CCOHS guidance

## COF vs. Coat Count – Action Required

Coats (zinc finish)	Wet COF	Action Required
1	0.50	Monitor – borderline in wet zones
2	0.47	Anti-slip treatment required in wet zones
3–7	0.39–0.45	Anti-slip treatment mandatory in all wet zones
8+	< 0.39	Anti-slip mandatory; strip cycle planning required

- Anti-slip additive in finish applied to all wet zones
- Wet floor signage placed at entries and wet zones after every burnish
- Portable tribometer COF check performed quarterly in wet zones
- COF test results logged with date, zone, value, and operator
- Action taken and re-tested when any wet zone reads below 0.50

SECTION 05

# Northern Ontario Weather Rules

## Seasonal Application Windows

Period	Condition	Application Allowed?
May–September	Optimal (RH 40–65%)	Yes — preferred window
October	Transitional	Yes — check RH before each coat
November–March	Heating season (RH < 40%)	Only with humidification ≥ 35% RH
April	Transitional	Yes — improving conditions

## Winter Entrance Zone Checklist

- Microfibre mat system at all entries — 10-foot minimum depth
- Entrance zone recoat quarterly (October–March) regardless of interior schedule
- Wet floor signage at all entries during freeze–thaw events (exterior temp ±5°C of zero)
- COF spot-check at entry zone during any freeze–thaw event
- Mopping frequency increased to twice daily at entrances in January–March
- Neutral pH mopping solution only — no quats at entrance during winter

### Salt Damage Watch

If white salt film reappears on the finish within 24 hours of mopping, chloride contamination is penetrating the finish layer. This indicates the finish is worn to near-bare at the entrance. Schedule an emergency recoat or spot strip-and-recoat for the affected zone immediately.

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