

SUGGESTIONS FOR APPLICATION OF DYES ON FLOORING

LOCKWOOD'S® WATER SOLUBLE DYES (WATER STAIN POWDER)

1. PREPARE THE DYE SOLUTION

Slowly add Dye Powder to hot water and mix until completely dissolved. Apply at room temp. Add the following weights of dye to volume of water as a minimum. You may always add more water for a lighter color.

Dye Powder	Hot Water	Square Feet of Flooring Covered
1 Oz.	1 Quart	80 - 100 Square Feet
4 Oz.	1 Gallon	320 - 400 Square Feet
8 Oz.	2 Gallons	640 - 800 Square Feet
1 Lb.	4 Gallons	1280 - 1600 Square Feet

2. PREPARE THE FLOOR

Completely sand floor to the desired grit and clean of dust and grit before dye is applied. The water soluble dye solution will raise the wood grain, so it is optional to lightly wet the floor with water, let dry, then lightly sand or buff at the last grit to knock down raised grain. Then proceed with the stain application.

3. STAIN THE FLOOR

Starting from the wall furthest from your intended point of exit, apply the dye with a floor applicator* in lanes, matching the edge of a row of floorboards where possible. Attempt to meet the wet edge of each previous lane of color. It is sometimes helpful to have a second person picking up excess dye, smoothing lap marks, and blending application with a dry applicator. When done, allow to dry overnight.

4. FINISH THE FLOOR

If a waterborne finish is to be used, you must lock the dye into the wood with a non-water-based sealer before applying a waterborne topcoat, or the dye will be re-dissolved and pulled up. Zinsser Sealcoat® is one option, but any alcohol or oil based sealer should provide a good barrier. Even if the top coat will be oil based, a sealer is suggested to lock down the dye. Sometimes, an oil-based pigmented stain is applied on top of the dye, to help even and deepen the coloration, fill deep grain, and seal in dye, but this is optional. After dye and any pigmented or barrier coats have been applied, proceed with your typical clearcoats.

5. FINAL THOUGHTS

Every professional is likely to develop and fine tune their techniques of dye application and finishing. It is a universally good idea, however, to have the client approve and sign off on a sample board which has been finished - from sanding to topcoat - using the same process as the final job.

* Padco Nylfoam® Floor Coaters or Lambswool Applicators are good choices