

**Make your business safe,
health, and profitable.**

You will make more money if your
customers are happy with a good quality
finish with no damage to their homes.

To learn more about products and
techniques that make your floor finishing
business safer and successful, contact
Viet-AID for information, free training,
and small business advice.



Floor finishing without fires

**Keep your business safe and
successful by preventing fires.**

For information in
Vietnamese:
Vietnamese-American
Institute for Development
(Viet-AID)
(617) 822 - 3717

For information in English:
Massachusetts Coalition for
Occupational Safety & Health
(MassCOSH)
(617) 825 - 7233

Viet  AID

MassCOSH



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**For a Bright Future in
Floor Finishing**

Keep your business safe and successful by
preventing fires



**Vietnamese Occupational Health Project
Updated June 2007**



The job may bring you money, but the hazards are many...

Sanding and finishing wood floors is an important profession in our community. Floor finishers must be able to prevent fires in order to succeed in business.

In 2004, two Vietnamese workers died in a fire in Somerville while they were finishing floors. Vapors from the lacquer sealer they were using caught fire from a pilot light on a gas stove.

Another worker also died at his floor-finishing job in Hull in 2005. Vapors from his lacquer sealer caught fire from a pilot light in a water heater.

Many floor finishers are caught in fires when vapors from lacquer sealers or other flammable liquids touch a spark. Bags of wood dust also easily catch fire in heat. These fires hurt workers and cost money.

How Fires Start

Many lacquer sealers are very flammable.



This means that the vapor from the product will catch fire very easily at temperatures below 100°F (or below 38°C). Other floor finishing products are also flammable.

Vapors travel. They can move into other rooms, up stairs, or into basements. Just one spark can start a fire from those vapors.

Where do the sparks come from?

Sparks come from pilot lights in water heaters, or pilot lights in stoves. Sparks can be created by hitting nails or staples in floors, turning on lights, or rubbing cloth.

Wood dust can catch fire if exposed to high temperatures. Many fires have started because wood dusts in plastic garbage bags were left in hot trucks or in direct sunlight.

Property damage from these fires can lose you customers and ruin your profits!



You can prevent fires!

- Get the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each product. Find the flash point in Section 4. Or ask your supplier for the flash point.
- Use only products with flash points above 100°F. Flammable lacquer sealers are not necessary for a good floor finish.
- Turn off all pilot lights in the house before work: stoves, water heaters.
- Add water to wood dust bags or put the dust in airtight containers. Keep them away from heat and sunlight.
- Succeed in business without flammable products! Call the numbers below for more information.

Keep your business successful by preventing fires!

For more information in Vietnamese
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For more information in English
Contact MassCOSH (617) 825 7233