



Gloss Levels

Many of Mirotone's clear and pigmented coatings are available in a range of gloss levels to suit individual customer preferences. The most common of these gloss levels are:

- Gloss
- Semi-Gloss
- Satin
- Matt

The gloss level is carefully quality controlled on each and every batch.

What is Gloss?

Gloss is the reflectance of light from the surface of the cured film. The more light that is reflected from the surface, the "glossier" it appears to be.

How do we quality control test?

A sample panel is prepared at the required wet film thickness and allowed to dry. It is then measured using an instrument called a "gloss meter" to (AS/ NZS 1580.602.2) standards to enable batch responsibility, and enable our customers to produce consistent gloss levels which intern is what your customer sees.

Factors influencing gloss

1. Film Thickness:

- If the coating is applied to the film thickness specified on the technical data sheet, the gloss will fall within a reproducible constant level.

2. Low Gloss:

- If the coating is applied at too low a film thickness, then the final cured film may appear lower in gloss.
- If the coating is over thinned, the solids of the product drop and the dry film will be low, and the gloss level also low.
- If the timber is very open, or an open grain effect is required, then the grain patterning may influence the reflective value, giving the appearance of low gloss.
- If settled material is applied – caused by not stirring the coating.

3. High Gloss:

- If the coating is applied at too high film thickness then the final cured film may appear higher in gloss.
- If the coating is not thinned, run in a curtain coater without thinning or left in an open container over the working day, the solids of the product are higher at application the dry film will be high, and the gloss level also high.
- If the substrate is very smooth, or a full grain effect is required, then the smooth dry film may influence the reflective value, giving the appearance of a higher gloss. In this case less coats may be required.

- If the coating has not been stirred in the can and the top liquid sprayed, gloss may be high.

4. Patchy Gloss:

- If there are substrate problems such as oily timber or waxy MDF (medium density fibreboard), additives that migrate through the coating and cause incompatibility. This may show up as a low patchy gloss.
- Repair with a low gloss product may appear patchy; the repair may be applied at a lower film build, or with additional thinning to “feather in”.
- Uneven spray application, often seen with airless or air mix sprays over dark or dark stained timbers; shows as stripes of gloss and matt; or clear and milkiness in the film.
- If the coating is not thoroughly stirred each time it is used it can settle, the resultant film will be patchy in gloss (difference in gloss level from start to end of the job).

5. Colour:

- A tint in gloss may look cleaner and brighter than the same tint in a matt finish. This is the influence of the matting agent that casts a “grey tone” into the visible colour in the lower gloss levels.
- Over dark stains, it is critical that the film be applied evenly. Milkiness in low gloss levels may be apparent in uneven films or where too many coats have been applied (the total film build too high).

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