

The difference between PU and PUR

Whilst closely related PU and PUR surface finishing are not the same thing; PU and PUR flooring will offer you totally different things.

PU is a lightweight version of polyurethane that protects the floor during the construction process and allows for easier post-construction cleaning by giving the floor “a head start” after installation. PU ranges almost always require a polish/sealer at some time in the future to protect them and keep them looking like new, especially on floors in high traffic commercial applications. In a commercial installation a PU coating will enable the floor to withstand finishing trades soiling – in short it will last until the pre handover “Builder’s Clean” More of a short-term damage control solution than a long-term benefit, PU flooring is great as an initial barrier against damage, but it will require additional coats of polish and/or maintainer going forward. The best time to add this protection is straight after the initial cleaning process and ahead of any intended heavy traffic use. That’s not to say that such a treatment can’t be applied later; it can - however by applying a polish or maintainer from the outset of normal daily use will protect the product and make the ongoing daily and periodic floor maintenance regime easier and more cost-effective. For full details please refer to Polysales’ recommended Cleaning & Maintenance guide for PU coated products. It’s important to note that Polyflor have been making products where polishes and seals are a maintenance requirement for over 60 years with many actual references still in use today. A PU finish therefore does not suggest any inferiority in terms of product quality.



PUR is a much heavier version of PU (polyurethane) so much so that the flooring is classed as “**PolyUrethane Reinforced** While PU is just one coat over the top, Polyflor’s PUR treated flooring consists of a unique way of combining two coats of polyurethane finish by means of a cross link to provide greater resistance to dirt and abrasion. The PUR surface treatment is then cured using a UV-light process for extra hardness and resistance to soiling and staining.

The benefits of PUR

The biggest benefit of PUR is undoubtedly the lifetime of polish-free maintenance that it delivers, this drastically reduces the ongoing maintenance costs. Studies have even shown that customers who went for a PUR treated floor are able to save up to 60% on maintenance costs; and up to 55% on water consumption* Normal daily cleaning of Polyflor’s PUR treated floors usually comprises of nothing more than a damp mop. Of course, using less cleaning materials and less water is also kinder to the planet and with less reliance on heavy cleaning equipment the human strain is less too. So Polyflor’s PUR coating makes sense from economic, an environmental and ergonomic perspectives.

To summarise; PU finishes will require additional surface attention ahead of use; but once applied the longevity is guaranteed. PUR is defined by the benefit that it delivers, e.g. polish free maintenance. By using Polysales’ guides to both recommended cleaning techniques and cleaning equipment / materials the value of Polyflor’s PUR surface treatments will become clear when calculating the future costs of maintenance regimes in a commercial environment. This makes Polyflor’s PUR ranges the perfect fit for the education, healthcare, hospitality and public sectors where appearance and hygiene are a priority; but maintenance needs to be cost effective and minimal.