

HILLYARD

THE CLEANING RESOURCE®

Frequently Asked Questions



Question: How can I provide temporary game lines on my floor without damaging the finish?

Answer: When a strong adhesive style tape is used to mark a line on a newly coated gym floor, the adhesive within the tape can become too strongly bonded to the finish and cause the finish to peel away from itself. Temporary tapes, such as the **3M 2070** is specifically designed with a low strength adhesive so as not to pull or peel finish from the floor. If a longer lasting tape is needed, the **3M 2090** Blue tape works well, but special caution is needed when this tape is used with Contender Finish, or is intended to be left on a floor for long periods of time. The maximum length of time for the temporary tape to be used is 30 days, but shorter time periods, such as 7 days is preferable to minimize potential damage.

Our best success using temporary game lines have been found by following these guidelines:

- 1. Allow the final coat of finish to cure a minimum of two weeks, and preferably 30 days before applying temporary game lines.**
2. Apply the temporary game line using "**3M 2070 White**" temporary marking tape. This tape is available in 3/4 inch and 2" widths.
- 3. An alternative tape with a more aggressive bonding strength is "3M Vinyl marking Tape #471". This tape is offered in a number of colors and sizes. Main lines are normally 2" wide markings. Secondary lines are normally marked in 1" widths. Care must be taken with this tape to prevent pulling of the finish.**
3. These lines should not be allowed to remain on the floor longer than thirty (30) days. Longer contact with the floor may allow the adhesive to become permanently attached, resulting in peeling of the finish.

An alternative to using actual tape is to consider the use of "tempera" or "poster" water mixed paints used in many art classes, or auto dealerships to mark windshields. (A mixture of liquid Dishwashing soap and water, to initially mix the powdered paints will aid in the removal process). The disadvantage to the use of the "tempera" paints are the difficulty in removing the material which may flow in the joints between boards on worn floors, or into dimples formed by impact marks.

The second area of concern with marking gym floors includes a list of items that should not be used to mark coated wood floors to prevent possible damage to the finish or floor.

DO NOT USE FOR MARKING GYM FLOORS:

1. Duct tape
2. Athletic wrapping tape
3. Masking tape
4. Scotch Tape
5. Medical tape
6. Electrical Tape

All of these products may interfere with the adhesion of the gym finish if they are allowed extended contact with the floor, and therefore would not be recommended for use.
