



# Floor Tools Background & Usage

**Padco introduced the T-bar style floor coater to the hardwood flooring industry in 1988.**

Padco floor coaters have become a mainstay for applying a fast, flawless finish to vinyl, concrete, stone, tile, terrazzo and other floor surfaces. They work like a cushioned squeegee. These T-bar floor coaters apply a smooth, bubble free finish at a rate of about 10,000 square feet per hour.

**Here is a brief recap of the features and usage for our floor finish applicators;**

**Nylfoam Refills** are covered with soft urethane foam with an application surface of about 20,000 Nylon fibers per square inch. Nylfoam is an ideal material to spread waterborne and oil modified hardwood finishes. Also floor wax, epoxies, polyaspartics, polyureas, sealers, and most water and mild solvent based finishes for concrete, stone and tile.

These refills became popular with the introduction of waterborne hardwood floor finishes in the USA. The Nylfoam fibers eliminated the bubbling associated with other types of applicators when used with waterbornes. For years, contractors used the Nylfoam refills for waterborne finishes only. They then became so accustomed to them that they tried them with thicker oil modified finishes, with excellent results. Nylfoam refills work perfectly with most solvent based finishes.

One consideration with the use of Nylfoam refills is that during the manufacturing process, where the fibers are electrostatically bonded to the foam, a very few fibers are not anchored in the adhesive. Loose fibers should be removed to prevent shedding. This is very minor, but we recommend that these refills be "*pre-conditioned*" before use. Contractors often rinse them in water and dry them with a towel, rubbing the applicator surface vigorously. Some will vacuum the surface thoroughly. This is considered part of the application process, along with thorough tacking and vacuuming the floor before application. It all combines to give a flawless finish.

When used with thicker, stickier oil modified finishes a few loose fibers may come out. Also, when used with aggressive solvent finishes such as acid cured or moisture cured materials, or high solvent acetone, MEK, or toluene coatings, the foam can swell and degrade over time. Thus, we introduced our **Woven Refills**. These have the same soft foam, but with a woven fibered fabric bonded to the foam. The fibers are locked into the fabric backing. They cannot come loose. The fabric backing also helps the refill hold up longer when used with harsh solvent finishes. The surface of the woven refill is a little less flexible and the fibers are a little stiffer, so the applicator has a different "feel" in use. Some contractors prefer them, but the majority still use the flocked Nylfoam refills with oil modified hardwood finishes and mild solvent concrete and stone coatings.



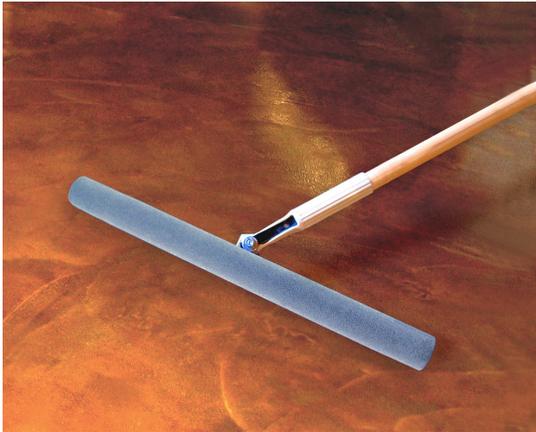
Nylfoam® Applicator



Woven Applicator



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Our **NanoFlock refills** are used for finishes that go down very thin, such as vinyl floor finish (wax), hardwood penetrating oils and stains, concrete sealers and guard coatings, stone and tile sealers, etc. These refills apply finishes at 1500 – 2500 square feet per gallon depending on viscosity and the weight of T-bar used. They are similar to our other refills but they have a thinner cushion layer of foam and the fibered application surface is much shorter and finer. They introduce the T-bar applicators to a whole new range of application previously confined to slower and less efficient processes such as sprayers, string mops and microfiber flat mops. Thin coatings are applied perfectly at 10,000 square feet per hour. *NanoFlock is available in a full range of applicator styles including T-bar refills, Trim Pads, Smoothers and Snappy handheld applicators and rollers.*

Use the **Nylfoam flocked refills** for water based and mild solvent finishes, and try both the Nylfoam and Woven refills to see which works best in your stronger solvent application. Make sure you remember pre conditioning the Nylfoam and lambswool refills.

Harsh solvent finishes such as acid cures or finishes containing toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, or acetone can attack the epoxy adhesive that bonds the foam to the plastic core tube, limiting the working life of the refill. If these types of finishes are being applied, a test should be done to see if the refill will be affected, prior to using it on the project.

One more factor is the weight of the T-bar. T-bar applicators work like a squeegee, and the harder you push down on a squeegee, the thinner layer of finish you leave. Thus, *the Lightweight Applicators will leave a thicker layer of finish and the Heavyweight Applicators leave a thinner layer.* Lightweight bars commonly apply waterborne hardwood finishes, thick base coats of epoxy, and concrete densifiers. Heavyweight bars apply oil modified hardwood finishes, thin topcoats of epoxy, floor wax, and sealers for concrete, stone and tile. Of course, there are some professionals who use the applicators in the opposite manner, but this is a general rule.

Also, the position of the applicator has an influence in the thickness of the coating. When positioned so the metal handle mounting tang welded to the T-bar is in the down position, so the edge of the pad is vertical to the floor, the edge works somewhat more as a squeegee and strips the finish off to the side, leaving a slightly thinner layer. When the welded tang is facing upward, the smooth bottom surface of the pad tends to hydroplane over the finish, leaving a slightly heavier coat.



A BigFoot T-Bar  
18" Heavyweight  
Applicator weighs 8.7 lbs.



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When Rollers are used to apply finish, they impart bubbles into the product. In concrete applications it is common to back roll the surface to attempt to even the layer out and to try to break up some of the bubbles. This is time consuming. When finishes are applied with microfiber flat mops, the process is similar to rolling because the person stands in one place spreading and evening the finish out, then moves on to another place to repeat the process. With T-Bar applicators, there is constant forward motion, providing a perfect layer of finish the first time at a rate of about 10,000 square feet per hour.

**Trim Pads** are accessory applicators used for cutting along baseboards and moldings, creating a clean, precise edge to the finish. They are also used as stand alone applicators for smaller areas and residential room applications. They apply all waterborne and mild solvent finishes.

The **Smoother** is a handy, inexpensive handheld applicator that does an excellent job on stair treads and risers, closets, under radiators, and other small areas. The handle is foam plastic, and the Smoother can easily be cut to a specific width to fit between spindles, or other tight spots.

We also offer many additional accessories, such as **Foam Brushes, Trim Pad Trays, Application Rollers, Extension Poles**, etc.

**Padco T-bar Applicators** are recommended by almost every hardwood finish manufacturer in North America and by many concrete, vinyl, tile, and stone finish manufacturers. Our products are made in the USA to the highest professional standards. We provide our applicators to customers worldwide.

*Please contact us if you have any questions about the project you are planning.*

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## Floor Tool Usage Chart

Flooring Type	Type of Finish	Lightweight Floor Coater	Lightweight BigFoot	Heavy & BigFoot Floor Coater	Nylfoam Refill	Woven Refill	NanoFlock Refill
Hardwood	Oil modified urethane			●	●	●	●
	Waterborne urethane	●	●		●		
	Swedish Finish					●	
	Moisture cured					●	
	UV Coatings	●	●		●		●
	Alcohol sealers			●		●	
	Penetrating oils			●			●
Vinyl Flooring	Vinyl finish (wax)			●	●		●
Concrete	Water based sealers	●	●		●		●
	Mild solvent sealers			●	●		
	Harsh solvent sealers			●		●	●
	Epoxy base coat	●	●		●	●	
	Epoxy finish coat			●	●	●	
	UV Coatings	●	●		●		●
	Densifiers			●	●	●	
	Polyaspartics		●	●	●	●	
Stone	Water based sealers	●	●		●		●
	Solvent based sealers			●	●	●	●
Tile & Terrazzo	Water based sealers	●	●		●		●
	Solvent based sealers			●	●	●	●