



BACKROLLING: WHY, WHEN & HOW

Backrolling is an important technique that adds versatility and capability to the application of any flooring/decking materials and/or systems. It is especially important with the TUFFLEX Materials because it brings additional speed of application to an already quickly applied system. Time is money!

The general idea if backrolling is to be able to apply texture granules of choice; be it rubber, sand, aluminum oxide or copper slag granules, at the same time as applying the topcoat sealer.

Backrolling can be done on old coated surfaces where the topcoat is being re-applied because of wear & tear and/or aesthetics, on new decks receiving their first topcoat application, and where additional texture is desired on all or part of the deck area.

EXISTING DECKS BEING RE-TOPCOATED

On decks that have an existing TUFFLEX system or urethane decking system that is being re-topcoated, the need for additional texture is most likely needed only in certain high wear areas of the deck. The areas on stair treads, pivot areas at the top of stairs, door ingress/egress areas, elevator exit areas, and turning radius on vehicle traffic decks tend to show texture wear faster the general area of the field of the deck.

With the proper backrolling technique, the texture in those specific high wear areas can be re-textured at the same time as the new topcoat is being applied to the whole deck area.

When re-topcoating an existing system, refer to the TUFFLEX ADVISORY "APPLICATION OF A NEW TOPCOAT" for further information.

NEW DECKS HAVING THE TOPCOAT(S) APPLIED FOR THE FIRST TIME

On new decks, the ability to add additional texture to the surface while applying the original topcoat(s) to the deck speeds up the total application process. Basically, you are doing two jobs at once – adding additional texture at the same time as applying the topcoat, making it a one step process.

Depending on the site specific requirements of the deck, only some areas may need additional traction enhancement. As cited above, they may be the very heavy wear & tear areas such as step treads, pivot areas, ingress/egress areas and turning radius areas on vehicle traffic decks and such.

BACKROLLING TECHNIQUE

CAUTION: Do not try this application technique without some practice or the aid of someone experienced in backrolling to help and guide you. A little practice on scrap plywood will go a long way in preparing the applicator in perfecting this technique. Practice makes perfect and the only real teacher is experience!

Backrolling is accomplished by mixing and applying the colorcoat topcoat of choice normally to an area and then lightly and evenly broadcast the additional texture of choice onto the wet surface. A rate of about 20 to 30% or as needed.

You can use spiked shoes to walk out onto the wet surface to backroll or do an area just large enough to reach across with your roller and pole.

Extending and then placing the roller away from yourself, you then pull back towards yourself, without applying any pressure, just the weight of the roller and handle in an even and smooth manner. (Do not "push" the roller away from yourself as this will cause clumping. Pull the roller, that's why it's called "backrolling!") This action will roll the material and texture together and spread it out evenly and bonded together on the deck surface.

Repeat this cycle of topcoat application, light broadcast and backrolling across the area to be coated and textured.

HINT: Apply the second coat first!

If you are only addressing specific high wear areas, such as stair treads and turning radiuses, you can do them ahead of time. Then, you can come back over them with one continuous topcoat application without having to pause to do the broadcast and backroll cycle during the full application process. In other words, apply the "second" coat & texture granules to the areas where it is needed first, then apply the full topcoat over the entire deck in one continuous process.

Identify the areas to be done ahead of time and apply a thin "tac" coat (10 +/- mils/160 square feet per gallon.) of the chosen topcoat material and backroll the additional texture into this coat. This will lock down the added texture. When the full topcoat application is done at the specified rate of coverage and thickness, a seamless and even final finish is accomplished over the top of these areas to blend them in and really lock the texture down.

This can be done on old decks that are being recoated or on new decks that are receiving their first topcoat(s).

Remember, practice makes perfect!