

**BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS**

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*Draft Indian Standard*

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATING TO POLISHES  
AND RELATED MATERIALS**

*( Third Revision of IS 8171 )*

(ICS 97.080)

Brushware, Polishes, Lac, Lac Products Sectional  
Committee, CHD 23

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Brushware, Polishes, Lac, Lac Products Sectional Committee, CHD 23

**FOREWORD**

*(Formal clause shall be added later)*

This standard prescribes definitions of terms in vogue in polish and other closely related industries excluding those relating to proprietary and patented items and those relating to other trades and industry. Terms which may be commonly used in the polishes and allied industry but are self-explanatory or imply commonly accepted diction try meanings have not been included. To facilitate reference, the terms covered in this glossary have been arranged in alphabetical order.

This standard was originally published in 1976 with a view to facilitating trade and industry by establishing generally recognized usage and eliminating ambiguity or confusion arising from various interpretations of definitions of the terms relating to polishes and its allied materials. In the original standard, some terms used in polishes and its allied industries were not covered. These terms were covered in the first revision published in 1984 In the second revision in 1992, more terms were added, which have come up in polish industry, during the last decade.

This third revision has been taken up in order to update the terminologies being used in polishes and its allied materials. Amendment No. 1 issued to previous version of this standard has also been incorporated.

*Draft Indian Standard*

GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATING TO POLISHES  
AND RELATED MATERIALS

*(Third Revision)*

**1 SCOPE**

This standard covers definitions of terms relating to footwear polishes and creams, polishes for application on floor, automobile and aircraft, metals and glass, in addition to industrial polishing compounds.

**2 TERMINOLOGY**

**A**

**Abrasive** — A substance used for the wearing away of surface by rubbing. The common abrasives used in polish composition are emery, rough (red oxide of iron), chalk, dolomite, tripoli, pumice, diatomaceous earth, emery, fullers earth and silica.

**Aerosol** — Liquid finely dispersed in compressed most gas (propellant).

**B**

**Bloom** — An efflorescence which develops on sole leathers or upon the bottoms, heels and edges of finished boots and shoes and other type of footwear.

**Buffing** — The smoothening of a surface by means of flexible wheels to the surface of which fine abrasive particles are applied in liquid suspension paste or grease stick form. This also applies to the rubbing off of surface after non-abrasive paste or liquid polishes have been applied with a soft cloth.

**C**

**Caking** — The setting of pigment particles of a polish into a hard compact mass which is not easily redispersed by stirring. The drying of a paste type polish into a hard unspreadable mass due to the evaporation of the solvent.

**Chilling** — The subjection of wax polishes to low temperatures in order to quickly transform them from molten state to semisolid state (paste) so as to impart certain desired characteristics.

**Cleaner** — A product, either liquid or paste, used for cleaning floor, shoes, automobiles, hard surfaces and porcelain articles. In shoe care products, cleaner also stands as renovation.

**Colour** — The aspect of the appearance of objects which depends upon the spectral composition of the light reaching the retina of the eye and upon its temporal and spatial distribution.

**Consistency** — The apparent viscosity of a polish when shearing forces of varying degrees are applied to it in various ways, for instance, when it is stirred in the can, transferred from one vessel to another or brushed over a surface.

**Crazing** — Minute, interlacing cracks on the surface of a finish.

**Creaming** — The separation of a layer of the dispersed phase on an emulsion polish to the surface of the liquid continuous phase.

**Crystallization** — Separation of wax crystals leaving solvents to float.

**D**

**Diatomaceous Earth** — A natural siliceous material composed of skeletons of small prehistoric aquatic plants related to Algae (diatoms) and found on some parts of the sea floor to-day. It consists of about 88 percent by mass of silicon ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ). It is usually colourless or cream in colour. Finely ground material is used in various polishes/cleaner's compositions as an abrasive.

**Drag** — Resistance on buffing after application of polish.

**Dressing** — A composition applied on leather to preserve its softness and flexibility besides imparting freshness of appearance.

**Drying Time** — Time taken by a polish to dry out sufficiently before buffing for shine.

**Dubbin** — Waterproof grease used chiefly on army boots shoes and on footwear for agricultural and shooting purposes.

**E**

**Emery** — Naturally occurring aluminium oxide containing some magnetic oxide of iron.

**Emulsifying Agents** — Substances of chemical nature used for effecting emulsification.

**Emulsion** — Emulsions are stable suspensions of tiny droplets of one liquid known as the dispersed phase, in another liquid known as the dispersion or continuous phase. They are of the following two types;

- a) Oil-in-water, in which oil is the dispersed phase and the water is the continuous phase
- b) Water-in-oil in which the phases are reversed

Oil as stated above may be mixture of fats and waxes as well as oils and solvents and the emulsion forms when the same is in the liquid state.

**F**

**Flash Point** — The lowest temperature at which the vapours emitted by a product ignite momentarily in the presence of a flame, when operating according to a specified test method.

**Fullers Earth** — A porous colloidal aluminium silicate (clay) which has high natural adsorptive power. Finely ground material is useful as mild abrasive for polishing smooth surfaces.

**G**

**Gloss** — The degree to which a polished surface possesses the properties of reflecting light in a mirror-like manner (specular reflection).

**H**

**Heat Resistance** — The property of paste polish to resist warm ambience (at specified temperature) without changing its paste consistency.

**L**

**Levelling** — The property of a freshly spread aqueous polish to dry to a uniform and streak-free appearance.

**Lustre** — Brightness or shine of a surface.

**M**

**Mar** — Mutilation of polish film repairable only by recoating.

**Mop** — General term for a circular polishing wheel made substantially of cloth.

**Mopping** — Synonymous with 'Buffing'.

**O**

**Oozing** — Same as "Sweating".

**P**

**Penetration** — It is a measure or firmness of paste polish using a penetrometer.

**Pick Up** — Quantity of polish picked up when a polishing brush is gently dabbed or a piece of cloth is used for application purpose.

**Pigment** — The insoluble dispersed particles in a polish composition which give the dried film its characteristic properties of colour gloss and opacity.

**Pigmented Floor Polish** — These are highly pigmented floor polishes of the wax solvent paste type or emulsion type paste polishes with suitable colouring agents. These are also known as tile polishes.

**Polish** — A composition generally applied at frequent intervals to produce desired, smooth, glossy surface on rubbing. The common polishes are metal polish, shoe polish and cream floor polish, aircraft polish, glass polish, tile polish and industrial buffing compounds.

**Polish, Dressing** — These are prepared by wax emulsification or by suspension or dissolution of suitable ingredients in suitable vehicles. Many of these can be sprayed on to the shoe uppers and often final polishing can be dispensed with.

**Polish, Dry Bright** — These are polishes which are also known by other names, such as no rub, rubless, salt-polishing, self-shine polishes. On application with a brush or a pad, the coatings dry out to a smooth glossy surface without the usual rubbing or brushing.

**Powdering** — Partial or total disintegration of the polish film resulting in a fine light-coloured material.

**Propellant** — A compressed/liquefied gas used for expelling the contents from an aerosol container.

## R

**Rebuffability** — The ability of the polished surface to regain shine after its normal wear on buffing without the **and of** polish.

**2.41 Recoatability** — The application characteristics of a polish and appearance of the film after successive coatings to a surface.

**Renovator** — A product which renovates an article to its original appearance.

**Room Temperature** — Ambient temperature of 21 °C to 38 °C. It is also known as ordinary temperature.

**Rub out Stain** — A little quantity of coloured polish when rubbed over filter paper for noting its intensity of colour and shade characteristics.

## S

**Shampoo** — A liquid product containing detergents used for removing dirt from shoes, car carpet etc.

**Sheen** — Surface gloss of paste polish when visually examined.

**Shelf Life** — The time for which a polish will keep in good condition when stored in original sealed containers under normal storage conditions on the shelves of a shop or stock room.

**Shine** — It is brightness or radiance of a surface after being polished.

**Shiner** — Usually sponge of cloth, impregnated with polishing compound for producing shine on gentle application or rubbing.

**Shrinkage** — Contraction of a polish, leaving edges of the container during its shelf life.

**Silica** — Occurs widely in nature as sand, quartz, flint, etc. finely ground material is used as an abrasive material for hard surface cleaner compositions.

**Silicon** — These are semi-organic materials which are employed in the manufacture of some special polishes.

**Soil** — Embedment or adhesion of solid foreign matter in or on the surface.

**Solvent** — The solvent should dissolve/disperse wax mass and remain uniformly distributed throughout the mixture. A solvent is necessary to get the wax mass into a form that can be easily applied to the surface to be polished and to evaporate away and leave a thin film of wax on the surface.

**Scuff** — Disfigurement of polish film resulting from the abrading or scraping action, repairable without re-coating.

**Spreading** — The action of flowing out over a surface during application.

**Stick Polishing** — A manual operation using small sticks coated with suitable abrasive, generally used in the polishing of jewellery.

**Sweating** — Exudation of solvent from the wax solvent or emulsion paste shoe polish in the container under specified conditions of test. It is the same as 'Oozing'.

**T**

**Tack** — Slight stickiness of the surface of a film of polish composition apparent when the film is pressed with the finger.

**Traffic Marking** — Marring or discoloration or both, of a floor surface by traffic.

**V**

**Vehicle** — The liquid portion of polish in which the solids are dispersed. It is composed of solvent and other binding materials.

**W**

**Water Spotting** — Change in appearance of surface resulting solely from the action of cold water.

**Wax** — The term wax is now used very loosely to describe naturally occurring or synthetic material whatever its chemical composition, which appearance approximately resembles beeswax or carnauba wax as limiting standards. Chemically a true wax is regarded as an ester of fatty acids of high molecular mass with alcohols, of somewhat similar complexity. Usually, also present are free high molecular fatty acids and the corresponding alcohols, and also solid hydrocarbons. The natural waxes may be divided into three groups according to their origin namely, vegetable waxes, mineral waxes and insect or animal waxes.

**Waxes, Animal** — These are waxes of insect and animal origin. The common ones are beeswax, shellac wax, wool wax and spermaceti wax.

**Waxes, Hard** — "Hard" waxes in contrast to 'soft' waxes, take up more solvent but retain it more loosely, the cream made from them sets more quickly, is purer in body and, therefore, forms thinner films, dries and shines quickly, will not keep so long in the tins, and sets harder. Examples are carnauba wax, bleached carnauba wax, and hard paraffin.

**Waxes, Mineral** — These are waxes of mineral origin. The common ones used in polishes are paraffin, microcrystalline and montan.

**Waxes, Synthetic** — These are chemical products developed to have characteristics comparable to natural waxes for use in polish composition. The common synthetic waxes are the range of I. G. waxes and silicone waxes.

**Waxes, Vegetable** — These are waxes of vegetable origin and the common ones used in polishes are carnauba, sugarcane, Japan, and candelilla waxes.

**Wear** — Attrition of polish film resulting from normal use.

**Wetting** — The property of an aqueous polish to uniformly and completely contact the solid surface to which it is applied.