

Product Fact Sheet: Drying Room Yellowing

What is “drying room yellowing” (also known as “stove yellowing”) and when will it disappear?

During the final maturing process of all linoleum, which takes place in very large drying rooms or “stoves” a yellow tint can sometimes appear on the surface of the linoleum. Although this phenomenon has been present ever since the invention of linoleum in 1863 the chemical reasons for it are still not fully understood and research continues. This yellow tint distorts the true colour of the linoleum, as would a colour filter, and in particular makes blues look much greener. This cast or tint is light sensitive and will disappear of its own accord once sunlight or daylight has a chance to reach it. It will also disappear in artificial light, particularly containing the blue waveband of light, though much more slowly.

This is summed up in the statement that appears on our A4 samples and on our tile cartons:

“As all linoleum completes its maturing, a temporary and variable natural phenomenon occurs which may give the product a yellow tint. Expose the product to either natural or artificial light to allow this tint to disappear and the true colour of Marmoleum will develop.”

The persistence of any “drying room yellowing” or “stove yellowing” is dependent upon:

- a. The precise product formulation and colour
- b. The length of time in the maturing chamber – thicker and tougher linoleums may have more “drying room yellowing”.
- c. The position of the particular length of linoleum within the maturing chamber

d. The strength of the light to which it is exposed.

On a window ledge in bright sunlight a significant change will occur in most cases within hours and in many cases the tint – if there in the first place - will have effectively disappeared within 2 –3 days. If the colour is a pale one and if the lighting is dull or only artificial then in unfavourable circumstances it could take several months for the tint to disappear totally.

Normally this tint never returns. If, however, fairly new linoleum is then covered up, say by a large plant pot, the darkness may cause a new yellow tint to appear, which is visible once the object is moved and which will disappear once in the light again. As the floor gets older the tint is far less likely to recur in this way.

