A Problem in the Use of Acrylic Floor Finishes in Monolith Preparation

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In reference to Rapid Field Soil Monolith Preparation by Harry E. Parden (Soil Survey Horizons, V. 17, No. 4), it should be noted that acrylic floor finishes can solubilize soil organic matter. In preparing a monolith with Johnsons Future, we found that the A2 horizon of a Lakewood soil (Spodosol), was completely obliterated by diffusion of organic staining from the Al horizon. A quick test using a pinch of Al material in a beaker of acrylic confirmed this. The clear acrylic turned dark gray-brown in a matter of minutes. We suspect ammonia in the product is acting on the base soluble organic components.

Recognition of Volcanic Ash-influenced Soils by Soil Scientists in Western Montana and Parts of Idaho

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Forest and soil researchers do not completely agree upon the origin, distribution, properties, and importance of volcanic ash in Montana soils. Consequently, in August 1974, a telephone survey was initiated and questionnaires were distributed to supplement a review of the literature on volcanic ash-influenced soils in the state. Because a potentially large area of Montana is affected, a primary objective was to determine how soil scientists recognize volcanic ash-influenced soil and what they understand about its nature.

Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service soil scientists represent many years of experience with western Montana and northeastern Idaho soils where ash influence is recognized. These and other scientists were contacted by phone and later by letter for confirmation of the oral discus-