

Maintenance Guide - Solid & Engineered Wood Flooring

When it comes to caring for hardwood flooring, little maintenance is required. However, to help you get the best performance, we've compiled this handy guide to give you some helpful hints and tips. The ability to be sanded and refinished means you can restore or enhance its classic look.

General Cleaning

A regular cleaning routine will help keep your hardwood flooring looking perfect. However, it is important to make sure you're using the right cleaning agent to protect your flooring's finish. Oiled flooring ranges must be cleaned with an oil-based cleaner to nourish the wood and preserve the finish. Some household cleaning agents contain harmful chemicals which can affect the appearance of your flooring. Bleach, in particular, is a very powerful detergent with the ability to permanently deface your flooring, leaving a white film over the surface. If at all unsure, check the labelling or ask a professional before applying. We would strongly recommend using a highly concentrated, natural detergent, that performs well on lacquered, oiled and unfinished flooring.

*Please note that damp cleaning should only be done occasionally. Ensure that your mop is not too wet and always ring out excess water before use, a microfibre mop is strongly recommended. Never use a steam mop on your hardwood flooring.

Regardless of your floors finish it is important to remove daily dirt by sweeping with a soft bristled brush and vacuuming. This will help prevent any loose dirt and debris from scratching your flooring, whilst also keeping it looking it's best!

Maintenance & Up-Keep

It is important to carry out appropriate maintenance procedures to help preserve the appearance and extend the life of your hardwood flooring. If the flooring is laid in an area with heavy foot traffic then more frequent maintenance would be required. Consideration of external conditions can prevent damage to the flooring and also cuts down on cleaning time.

Dirt is most commonly transported indoors by foot traffic and if any dirt gets trapped under sliding furniture the flooring could suffer scratches from the abrasion of the dirt. We advise using protective felt pads on furniture feet to help prevent any unwanted damage. If your hardwood flooring has suffered damage such as scratch marks then use of a wood floor repair kit is great to help remove the visible damage!

Protecting Solid Wood Flooring From Excessive Sunlight

Excessive sunlight can cause fading and discolouration of hardwood floors. Care should be taken to ensure your flooring is not overexposed. Blinds are the perfect solution; whilst serving their functional purpose they are also great for shading your flooring too.



Preventing Scratches In Wood Flooring

All wood flooring ranges are susceptible to scratches. Whilst some people think they add to the character, others will try their utmost to prevent them. These simple steps will help keep your hardwood flooring scratches under control...

- **Avoid using abrasive materials such as steel, wood and scouring pads.**
- **Remove shoes inside the house and keep pet claws trimmed.**
- **Use wood floor wax to reduce the appearance of scuffs or scratches.**
- **Sweep away any debris with a soft bristles brush.**
- **Never drag furniture across the floor.**

Oiled Wood Flooring

It is important to correctly care for your oiled floor immediately after installation to ensure a lasting finish. The right care and maintenance will help your floor become easier to clean and more durable as the recommended products coat the floor with an invisible film that provides added protection. The beauty of oiled wood floors is that they can be re-oiled to keep them looking their best and prevent dullness. Oiled floors have a natural Matt Finish. The wood is coated in the oil which soaks into the wood, nourishing it and adding an extra layer of protection. Oiled wood flooring is our most popular finish as it is easier to re-coat compared to a lacquered finish. You can re-oil your wood flooring without the need to sand it down, which in turn maintains the original colour of your floor and also helps hide/prevent scratches.

After Installation Care

We would always recommend thoroughly cleaning your oiled floor straight after installation and to maintain this cleaning regime regularly. General cleaning with a soft bristled broom and vacuum are all you need to prevent surface debris and loose dirt. A mild cleaning detergent is recommended to remove the appearance of footprints and light stains. Wax Revivers provide optimum protection for hardwood flooring, by creating a robust barrier to defend your flooring from spillages and everyday wear and tear. Compatible with solid and engineered wood, a wax reviver is designed to protect the longevity of your flooring. We would recommend using a wax reviver for periodic maintenance of lacquered or oiled wood.

Maintaining Your Lacquered Finish

A lacquer provides a subtle glossy finish, giving an element of luxury to the flooring. A lacquered wood should be coated with several layers of lacquer to provide this subtle sheen, which in turn lets the light bounce off it and offers extra protection from everyday wear and tear! A lacquered finish is easier to clean compared to oil but does however show up scratches more easily and is harder to refinish than oil floors.

When applying your fresh re-coat of lacquer always clean your floor first and do not layer your fresh coat on top of any stubborn dirt. It is recommended to apply a fresh coat of lacquer two to three times per year dependant on wear and foot traffic.

Unfinished Wood Flooring

An unfinished wood has been treated and is ready for you to add your own finish - so you can make it your own!

Important To Note:

It is only recommended to sand Engineered Wood 2 to 3 times in its lifetime and only if the top layer is 5mm or more. If your Engineered Wood flooring has a thin top layer then we would strongly recommend against sanding.

