

WOCA OIL FLOORS CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Oil finished hardwood floors have a very different appearance from traditional UV finished or polyurethane hardwood floors. Over time, as applications of oil and maintenance occur, the floors will tend to look better as it ages and develops a rich patina. Oiled floors are easy to maintain and will look great for a lifetime when maintained properly. Renovation and care of oiled floors are very economical in comparison to other wood floors.

Natural Properties Fading:

Natural floors contain organic pigments and are subject to fading when exposed to direct sunlight. Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.

Joints:

A natural hardwood floor system expands and contracts in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. By controlling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity, you will minimize the visible effects of the seasonal contraction and expansion of your floor. Optimum recommended temperature is 68°F – 72°F and relative humidity is 35% - 55%. The use of a humidifier will most likely be necessary.

AFTER INSTALLATION/FINISHING:

If the floor needs to be covered to prevent wear and dirt penetration due to additional construction, use paper or cardboard. Do NOT tape paper or cardboard to the floor to keep it in place. Do NOT adhere any tape to the face of the floor as it will damage the finish. NEVER use plastic, which does not allow the floor to breathe. This operation should be performed by the installer if it is necessary.

GENERAL PROTECTION OF YOUR OIL FINISHED FLOOR

- Before opening doors/windows or walking on your floor, make sure a minimum of 72 hours has passed once the final coat has been applied and then only light foot traffic is permitted. For the first 7 days socked/slipped feet only – no shoes, no bare feet.
- Wait a minimum of 3-5 days before moving furniture back onto your newly coated floors
- We suggest minimum of 1 week before dogs should walk on the floor. The heavier the dog, the longer the wait time.
- Do not expose your floor to water during it's hardening time, approx. 5 days.
- After the hardening period has passed, mop your floor as needed with WOCA natural soap as needed.
- Wipe up any spills immediately.
- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Do not use any cleaning products other than the ones recommended in these instructions.
- In possible reoccurring wet spill areas, such as the sink, use a rug in front of those working areas to prevent local premature wear.
- Install proper protectors under "feet" of furniture. Furniture will require different types of protectors in order to achieve maximum weight distribution. Resilient pads such as those made of felt, flexible rubber, and saucer-shaped plastic glides will work for most furniture. Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters. A protective mat should be used under office chairs.

- Maintain a minimum humidity level in the room. If necessary, use a humidifier.
- Never use tape or other adhesive products on this surface.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear. When signs of wear are visible, it is time to re-oil your floors.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs. It takes a full 30 days for the floors to cure, so it's ideal to wait 30 days before putting area rugs on the surface. If you need to/want to put them on sooner, then 2 weeks is another good benchmark, but 30 days is better.

REGULAR, ROUTINE CLEANING & MAINTENANCE WITH WOCA SOAP:

WOCA Natural Soap is designed to clean and protect oil finished surfaces from dirt, stains and wear and tear. WOCA Natural Soap cleans and leaves behind an invisible layer of soy and coconut fats, which greatly help to ward off most anything. In fact, when used on a regular basis, WOCA Natural Soap increasingly makes your oil finished wood floor more dirt and wear resistant and easier to keep clean. Follow these simple steps:

1. Daily cleaning is done with vacuum cleaner or by sweeping. The frequency of floor cleaning depends on the wear on the floor.
2. Natural Soap is shaken carefully before use.
3. Mix 3 ounces of Soap into each gallon of lukewarm water. It is recommended always to work with 2 buckets; one with the Soap solution and the other one with rinse water. Clean the floor with minimum quantity of water – leave soap water on floor briefly in order to dissolve dirt. Remove dirty soap water with hard-wrung cotton mop or cotton cloth and rinse out in rinse water bucket. Change rinse water often!
4. Always wipe floor with soap water on hard-wrung mop or cloth in order to re-establish the protective Natural Soap film.
5. Using the 2-bucket cleaning method is effective and yields an extremely clean surface. It is, however, also possible to use a Swiffer-type system in combination with WOCA Soap Spray, provided that any micro-fibre pad is replaced with a cotton pad.

OR use the WOCA Natural Soap spray provided by RaeCor Enterprises. Please read instructions on the back of the bottle.

Please note: DO NOT use microfiber as this will gradually wear down most wood floor finishes

Tip: If a haze is visible after the soap treatment, put a cotton cloth under a dust mop and quickly polish away the haze.

REMOVING STAINS, SCRATCHES AND BURNS

Light scratches are best repaired by hand rubbing WOCA Master Floor Oil, the Color Oil or Oil repair mixture bottle provided by RaeCor Enterprises on your floor on the affected areas using a cloth.

- If necessary, first clean the area to be repaired with lukewarm water.
- **Be sure area is dry before applying oil.** It is very important to let the floor dry completely before any Master Oil or Color Oil is applied. Any trapped moisture under the oil may cause mildew to

develop, which causes black or dark blotches in the floor. It may also greatly increase drying time of the oil.

- Leave the oil to absorb for a short period of time before thoroughly buffing with a cloth and then removing the oil from the surrounding area with a clean, dry cloth.
- Deeper scratches or gouges should be sanded until they are no longer visible. Do not use a sand paper that is too fine. An 80-100 grit sandpaper will usually suffice then clean the spot with lukewarm water and let dry completely. Then follow directions for light scratches above.
- Whenever an area of the floor has been cleaned or repaired with new oil, it is important to remove all new oil from the surrounding area. This is easily done using a polishing cloth or a cotton rag, which then allows both areas to blend by having approximately the same sheen level. If necessary, steel wool can also be used to eliminate the “halo” effect of a slightly higher gloss level in the area around the repair.

Warning! Rags, pads or waste soaked with WOCA oil may self-ignite if improperly discarded. Immediately after use, place all rags and waste in a sealed, water filled bucket for proper disposal.

PERIODIC MAINTENANCE WITH WOCA OIL REFRESHER (generally 1-4 times a year, 1 = residential, 4 = commercial)

WOCA Oil Refresher, available in Natural and White through RaeCor, is used for periodic cleaning and maintenance of oiled wood floors. Oil Refresher combines efficient cleaning with oil rejuvenation, as additional oil penetrates the wood and forms a protective layer in the surface. The refresher is essentially the natural WOCA soap on “steroids.” Please note, should you decide to use the Refresher product the entire floor needs to be done at once. This is not a product you can spot clean with. This product also takes longer to dry, so be sure to clean yourself out of the room.

Work Instructions:

1. Shake the bottle well before and during use.
2. The floor must be free of dust before treatment.
3. Mix Oil Refresher with lukewarm water in a ratio of 1:40 (3 oz. Refresher per gallon of water). a. Mixing ratios can vary depending on wear and requirement. b. We recommend using two buckets, one with Oil Refresher solution, the other with clean rinse water.
4. Mop a small section of floor with a lightly wrung cotton mop along the wood grain. Immediately afterwards, dip mop into Oil Refresher solution, wring it hard and mop the area, again along the grain. Change rinse water often!
5. Leave the floor to dry for approx. 2 hours before use.
6. For slightly higher sheen, polish the dry floor with a white pad.
7. It is possible to use WOCA Oil Refresher Spray with a Swiffer-type system, provided that any micro fiber pad is replaced with a cotton pad.

Please note: DO NOT use microfiber as this will gradually wear down most wood floor finishes

Tip: If a haze is visible after the Oil Refresher treatment, put a damp cotton cloth under a floor machine and polish it off, or mop the floor with water only.

REJUVENATION WITH WOCA MAINTENANCE OIL (professionally done as needed)

WOCA Maintenance Oil may be used for the maintenance of all oiled wood surfaces and is especially suitable for regular maintenance of oiled wood floors. Maintenance Oil is available in several colors. Product, room and floor temperature should be at least 59 degrees. Ensure good ventilation during application and drying time.

Work Instructions:

1. Wash floor with WOCA Wood Cleaner using 3 ounces per gallon of lukewarm water. Let the floor dry completely.
2. Shake oil container well before and during use.
3. Apply approx. 1-2 ounces per 40-50 sq. ft. onto the floor and polish oil by hand or with floor machine.
4. It is important that the Maintenance Oil is carefully polished into the wood. Continue polishing until the wood appears saturated and the surface looks uniform.
5. Polish off all excess oil from floor using cotton cloths under the pad before proceeding with the next section of floor to be finished. Hand-wipe all edges and corners. The floor should not appear wet and no excess oil should be left on the surface.
6. When using a floor machine, the oil will be pre-hardened after approx. 4 hours and may be cautiously taken into use. Manually polished floors after 24 hours.
7. Do not expose floor or woodwork to water during hardening time of 24 hours.
8. After 3-5 days the floor may be treated with WOCA Soap to provide additional protection against wear and tear. Tip: For fastest drying time, leave windows slightly open to ensure a steady flow of fresh oxygen. Warning! Rags, pads or waste soaked with WOCA oil may self-ignite if improperly discarded. Immediately after use, place all rags and waste in a sealed, water filled bucket for proper disposal.

Tip: For fastest drying time, leave windows slightly open to ensure a steady flow of fresh oxygen.

Warning! Rags, pads or waste soaked with WOCA oil may self-ignite if improperly discarded. Immediately after use, place all rags and waste in a sealed, water filled bucket for proper disposal.



Here are a few Do's and Don'ts that will help keep your floor looking as beautiful as the day it was installed:

Do:

- ⇒ Follow a regular schedule of floor care with WOCA Natural Soap Hardwood floor cleaner or cleaner as per the manufacturers specs.
- ⇒ Wipe up spills immediately.
- ⇒ Move heavy appliances and furniture by sliding them on a piece of thick carpet place faced down on floor or by using safety glides.
- ⇒ Use furniture felt protector pads under all furniture legs.
- ⇒ Replace hard, narrow furniture rollers with wide rubber rollers.
- ⇒ Keep the relative humidity in your home between 35% and 55%. Use the appropriate humidifier or dehumidifier as needed.
- ⇒ Protect your floor from direct sunlight/UV exposure.
- ⇒ Keep pets' nails trimmed and their paws clean. Pets can track in substances that cause scratching and stains.
- ⇒ Use ice to harden tough substances like wax or chewing gum, and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper or a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the surface and wipe the area clean with a soft, slightly damp cloth.
- ⇒ Use breathable (not rubber backed) rugs both inside and outside doorways to prevent grit, salt, chemicals, sand and moisture from being tracked onto the wood floors. Take special precautions with non-skid pads that are frequently placed under area rugs. Some of these pads may imprint their pattern onto the finish and/or wood floor. Natural fibers may not transfer as much as synthetic pads.
- ⇒ Every 4-6 years (wear dependant) have a professional reapply a coat of oil finish for proper maintenance of your floor.

Don't:

- ⇒ Use any of the following products, or similar products in nature, on your floor: ammonia, water based liquid wax, Fantastik®, Formula 409®, dishwashing detergent, powdered all-purpose cleaner, Murphy's Oil Soap®, paste wax, Endust®, Pledge®, Future®, Mop'n'Glo®, Brite® or other polishes.
- ⇒ Don't use oil soaps, liquid or paste wax, or other household products containing lemon, citrus, or tung oil, or silicon to clean floors. Don't use 2-in-1 cleaners that contain acrylics or urethane polish to restore gloss.
- ⇒ Stay away from harsh cleaning aids like steel wool pads, any scouring pads containing metal, or scouring powders.
- ⇒ Allow water to stand on your floor for any length of time.
- ⇒ Use steam cleaners on wood floors. Water in a vapor form will penetrate the wood fiber and cause irreversible damage to the wood flooring and finish.
- ⇒ Walk across your floor in high heels, cleats or with any sharp object protruding from your shoe.
- ⇒ Allow furniture to rest on floor on small metal tips or hard domes.
- ⇒ Lay down carpets or area rugs with rubber or coarse backing. It is recommended that you put down a piece of underlay before using these types of rugs.

