Amber Sky

CUSTOM BESPOKE FLOORING

MAINTAINING YOUR OILED WOOD FLOOR

Wood is a natural material and the environment it is installed into is unique from one space to another. This will require an individual assessment to determine the exact maintenance programme.

Changes in foot traffic and environmental / seasonal changes should be taken into consideration. Using the correct cleaning products allows a wooden floor to adapt to its surroundings while still looking and performing as required.

NOTE: DRY environments will cause a floor to lose moisture and HUMID environments will cause moisture to be gained.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Purchasing a LCD Thermometer / Hygrometer is the best way to ensure conditions with temperature *and* humidity are maintained within the recommended guidelines.
- Grit and dirt particles of an abrasive nature trafficked on to a wooden floor can be very destructive and seriously shorten the lifespan of any floor finish. A dull surface will soon become apparent due to scratches and the wood may be affected by the moisture and staining these abrasive particles may cause. Place matting at external entrances to help prevent the tracking of grit and dirt prolonging the appearance and life of the floor, whilst reducing the frequency of refurbishment. Matting should ideally be large enough to allow two steps across and should be of a type which can *remove* grit, *absorb* moisture and it should be regularly cleaned.
- Place felt or fabric-faced nail-in glides, or self adhesive felt pads, under the legs of moveable furniture such as tables and chairs to prevent scratching and damaging the floor finish. Regularly check and clean the felt feet to avoid / reduce embedded grit or particles from scratching the wood surface.
- fidbox Whilst this is not a preventative measure, installing a fidbox® would prove prudent. This is a measurement device equipped with two sensors for monitoring temperature (°C) and relative humidity (%). Installed underneath the hardwood floor, it records the essential data of the wood floor and its substrate every 8 hours.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MAINTAINING YOUR FLOOR

The frequency of any maintenance should reflect the use of the floor and should be altered accordingly and these guidelines are designed to provide a starting point for your maintenance programme.

- Throughout the life of the floor we recommend that the temperature should be maintained between 15°C and 25°C and the relative humidity levels between 45% and 65% which will keep any movement within the floor to a minimum and ensure that the floor remains stable. As with any wooden floor, if humidity levels rise or fall outside of these parameters, a greater degree of shrinkage or expansion would be expected to occur.
- After installation and depending on the site conditions, a clean using the appropriate product for your floor may be necessary - this being OSMO Wash and Care.
- Place matting at external entrances to help prevent the tracking of grit and dirt. Abrasive particles can be very damaging to, and seriously shorten the life of, any floor finish. Matting should ideally be large enough to allow two steps across, and should be regularly cleaned. Available in a range of colours in natural or synthetic options.
- As previously mentioned place felt or fabric-faced nail-in glides, or self adhesive felt pads, under the legs of moveable furniture such as tables and chairs to prevent scratching and damaging the floor finish.
- When moving heavy furniture, pick it up rather than sliding it to best protect the floor.
- Try not to let people walk on the floor with stiletto-heeled shoes, as these cause damage.

Coir Matting

Nail-In Felt Pads

Self Adhesive Felt Pads

BEST PRACTICES FOR CLEANING YOUR FLOOR

- Floors should be swept or vacuumed regularly to remove any particles of dust or grit - dust, dry mop, sweep or vacuum.
  - Cleaning general dust and debris from your floor using a vacuum cleaner with a rotating brush is not advised if it has a support bar underneath as this can leave marks and scratches on the floor, make sure to use one with a soft brush head or a hardwood floor setting. Vacuum cleaning the floor can be repeated as necessary.
  - For quick, easy, light cleaning you can also use a microfibre flat mop to remove most of the dust that will collect on the floor.
- Always clean smooth or brushed floors along the length of the boards. If you purchase a bandsawn floor, clean in the direction of the saw marks to minimise snagging.
- Never wet-mop a wood floor - do not use water alone to clean floors. Standing water can stain or damage the wood. Always use a recommended cleaner - this being OSMO Wash and Care.
- Wipe up food and other spills immediately with a slightly dampened towel.

CLEANING YOUR OILED FLOOR

(U.V. CURED OR HARDWAX OIL)

- Soluble dirt should be removed by cleaning with **OSMO Wash and Care**, diluted as instructed (approximately 1 cover cap of Wash and Care per litre of water in a 1ltr spray bottle).
- Spray a fine mist directly onto the floor and clean off with a dry mop/cloth. It is important that the quantity of liquid applied to the floor is kept to a minimum.
- Never use household detergent based cleaners like Ajax, Cif or Fairy Liquid, or acidic/alkaline commercial cleaners as these are designed to break down oils and will be detrimental to the oiled coating. Wash and Care is specifically formulated for hardwood flooring and is recommended because of its pH-balanced properties.

MAINTAINING YOUR OILED FLOOR

(U.V. CURED OR HARDWAX OIL)

- When cleaning no longer restores shine to your floor implement the following guidance. **OSMO Maintenance Oil** can be used for periodic maintenance to help blend in minor surface scratches and to refresh the finish. Please note that areas with a higher footfall of traffic, ie kitchens, will need to be maintained on a more regular basis.

  Available in Satin, Matt and Slip resistant.
- Should be thinly applied by a competent individual or be sure to apply on a test area before continuing in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

RECOATING YOUR OILED FLOOR

(U.V. CURED OR HARDWAX OIL)

- Areas with higher footfalls of traffic may show more acute signs of wear and tear sooner than expected. These floors will need to be very lightly abraded to key the surface, then appropriately cleaned and dried before a competent individual or professional re-applies a coat of **OSMO Hardwax Oil** in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

  Available in Gloss, Satin, Semi-Matt and Matt.

ADVISED CLEANING SCHEDULE

- **DAILY** - Floors should be swept and / or vacuumed daily dependent on usage.
- **WEEKLY** - Spray mist with the diluted OSMO Wash and Care and clean with a dry mop / cloth, this may need to be performed more regularly in a commercial setting.
- **PERIODIC** - This is individual to each environment and may require application more than once a year by a competent person, see the OSMO website for more guidance.

  A good example would be that a busy domestic kitchen dining area or a room with heavy foot traffic and external doorways may need regular attention. Areas with less daily use, for instance more internal rooms without regular external foot traffic such as a study or bedroom may need maintaining less often.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Where under floor heating is present, rugs or mats should **never** be placed directly over the floor unless a suitable rug and underlay is used. Please consult your rug / mat supplier for guidance. This is to prevent the build up of heat underneath which can cause localised shrinkage issues.

As soon as the first signs of wear and tear occur, bare wood is getting dirty, then this is the time to re-oil your floor. Leaving this untreated will cause irreversible damage and may then result in the need for a specialist French polisher to touch-up/re-colour the floor, bringing it back up to its former level of finish.

Note also that flooring will react to changes in temperature, humidity and sunlight. ■

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