

Maintenance Guidelines For Oil Finished Floors

Oil finished hardwood floors have a very different appearance from traditional UV finished or polyurethaned 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 plank 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 65°F – 75°F and relative humidity is 35% – 55%. *In very dry climates, the use of a humidifier might be necessary.*

AFTER INSTALLATION:

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

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- Before walking on your floor, make sure it has been cleaned after installation according to the instructions above.
- Mop your floor as needed.
- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Do not use any cleaning products other than the ones recommended in these instructions.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other

non-ventilated mats or rugs.

- 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 renovate your floors following the instructions above.

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 flat mop system in combination with WOCA Soap Spray, 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 soap treatment, put a cotton cloth under a dust mop and quickly polish away the haze.

PERIODIC MAINTENANCE WITH WOCA OIL REFRESHER (generally 1-4 times a year)

WOCA Oil Refresher, available in Natural and White, 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.

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, and 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 flat mop 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 underneath floater pad using a 175 rpm floor machine and polish it off, or mop the floor with water only.

REJUVENATION WITH WOCA MAINTENANCE OIL (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 wipes 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 polish 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.

REMOVING STAINS, SCRATCHES AND BURNS

Light scratches are best repaired by hand rubbing WOCA Master Floor Oil or the Color Oil 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.

For additional questions not covered by these instructions, contact Shaw Technical Support at 800-471-7429.