



Cleaning & maintaining a hard wax oil finished hardwood floor

A floor that has been finished with natural hard wax oil is easy and straightforward to maintain and should last a lifetime if these instructions are followed. The more often the floor is cleaned with soap and maintained with oil care/maintenance oil, the more resilient it will become as the protection will become inherent within the wood.

Initial Precautions

Put self adhesive or nail on felt pads beneath all furniture. This will make moving furniture for cleaning easier, quieter and more importantly will eliminate the most common cause of scratching a wooden floor. The hard wax oil will continue to harden for the first week or so after installation. During this period, do not cover the floor with protective sheeting, rugs or matting. Sweep or vacuum dust and grit from the floor and use only a well wrung out damp cloth if required but not any chemical impregnated wipes.

Within 2-3 Days Of Installation

Remove dust and grit regularly with a cloth, vacuum or brush and clean with a well wrung out mop and a diluted solution of natural soap cleaner. Once the floor is thoroughly clean and dry, apply a thin coat of maintenance oil using an applicator pad and a spray bottle. This should be rubbed well into the floor. In commercial areas a polishing machine with a brown scotch brite pad will enable faster application, deeper penetration and a far quicker drying time. Full use of the area between 4-6 hours after application. The more often maintenance oil is applied, the more resilient to wear, moisture and staining the floor becomes. The frequency depends on the amount of traffic. A bar, reception, boutique etc will require maintenance oil every two to three months. Residential rooms maybe every twelve months.

Routine Cleaning

Keep the floor free from grit and dust as this will abrade the surface of the wood. Cleaning the floor with a polishing/buffing machine is the fastest most efficient and safest way to maintain the sheen without wetness. Alternatively a flat head dry mop and a spray cleaner will remove most marks and keep the floor looking in good condition. In the case of a badly soiled floor- an entrance, cafe, restaurant etc. A well wrung out mop and a diluted solution of natural soap will effectively and safely clean the floor without leaving it slippery. Remove scuffs and heel marks with a scotch brite pad.

Repairing Dents & Scratches

Small areas with specific damage- cigarette burns, impact damage, scratches from furniture, chewing gum etc. Rub or scrape to remove the damage and then rub hard wax oil (not maintenance oil) into the area with an abrasive pad. In most cases this repair will be invisible with a week or so and is one of the advantages of a hard wax oil finished floor.

Repairing A Large Area

A floor that has perhaps not been maintained as its use required, can be lightly abraded with a sand screen disc on a polishing/buffing machine before application of a coating of hard wax oil (not maintenance oil) using a cotton pad, roller or polishing machine and white scotch brite pad. Polish by hand or use the buffing machine. This will restore the floor and is a job that can be completed satisfactorily by your maintenance or cleaning staff (or house holder) Again this is another advantage over a sealed wood floor which would require costly professional renovation.

Preventative Maintenance

Felt pads beneath furniture are mandatory for any hard floor surface. A good quality absorbent matting at the entrance from outside will minimize the risk of scratching from grit and prevent moisture making the floor slippery. Wipe up spillages immediately and take care with plant pots. The best climate for healthy living and the right environment for wood flooring is a room temperature between 18- 21c, and a relative humidity of between 50-65% RH. A wood floor in an area with a lower humidity than 50% RH will lose moisture and the protection of the wax oil will decrease. Lower humidity will also cause the flooring to shrink at the joints and in extreme cases to open up down the grain.