

Care and Maintenance Information for Oil Finish Flooring - pg. 1

HUMIDITY

Wood is a natural, living material that reacts to changes in its climate and surroundings. Summer brings higher humidity, and the wood absorbs moisture and expands. In very moist conditions, humidity can be controlled with a dehumidifier, or periodically turning on the heating system. During winter, humidity drops and the wood releases moisture, causing it to shrink and contract. A humidifier is recommended to help prevent excessive shrinkage of wood flooring due to low humidity conditions (i.e., wood stoves, electric heat). The humidity in the room(s) must be maintained at a level of 45 – 60%. *If the humidity variation is more than 40% (summer/ winter) and no counter measure is taken, it may cause delamination or other damages **which are not covered by the Limited Warranty.***

PROTECT THE FLOORING

- *Avoid excessive sunlight* or artificial light directly on the floor surface for an extended period of time. Wood will age, resulting in color changes on the wood surface. This is normal and natural. After some time, a professional can also redo the floor lacquering and even change the color if necessary. Contact the nearest dealer for additional information.
- *Area rugs and doormats can be an asset* in the preservation of the flooring—especially if it lies adjacent to an external door. Placing a mat on the outside of the entrance(s) will help keep abrasives, dirt and moisture from being tracked in, while an area rug on the inside of the entrance may help ensure the safety of the remaining flooring. Put a good rug or mat at all sinks, washing machines and anywhere else water or detergents could be a threat. NOTE: Some rubber/foam backed rugs and non-slip pads contain ingredients that may discolor the floor.



ENGINEERED HARDWOOD FLOORING

The longevity of hardwood flooring is directly related to proper installation and a lifetime commitment to appropriate care and maintenance.

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- *Put felt pads under any furniture bases, chair legs, etc. to prevent scratches.* Never wax the base of chair or furniture legs. Use extra caution when moving heavy furniture and/or appliances across hardwood floors.
- *Keep all shoes and high-heels in good condition.* Shoes in poor repair may cause denting in hardwood floors.

CLEANING DO'S

- Immediately after installation, mop the floor with WOCA Soap Natural or, for the white colors, use WOCA Soap White.
- For regular cleaning, also use WOCA Soap Natural or, for the white colors, WOCA Soap White. These are concentrates that are mixed with water. They not only clean but also help keep the floors nourished and better protected (sealed) by leaving a thin layer of oil. Frequent cleaning with WOCA Soap will extend the time before re-oiling becomes necessary.
- When Cleaning with WOCA products, use a cotton mop (not micro-fiber). Use a second rinse bucket of clean water to remove dirt from the mop before re-soaking it in the cleaning solution. Change the rinse bucket water frequently.
- For convenient spot cleaning, use WOCA Sopa & Spray Natural or, for the white colors, Soap & Spray White, which are pre-mixed with water for immediate use.

For more difficult stains, use WOCA Spot Remover. If a mop or rag does not remove the spot, try scrubbing gently with a 3M 4100 Super Polish White Pad.

- Two or four times a year, depending on traffic, clean with WOCA Oil Refresher Natural or, for the white colors, WOCA Oil Refresher White. This will introduce a small amount of oil to freshen the finish and extend the time before a re-oiling becomes necessary. If water is not beading or the floor seems to scuff easily, these are signs that more frequent Refresher is needed. If the finish is getting hazy, you may be using the Refresher too frequently. Reduce the frequency and use Soap instead.

Light scratches are best repaired by hand rubbing WOCA Master Floor Oil Natural, WOCA Master

- Floor Oil White, or a Master Color Oil on the affected area using a cloth. If necessary, first clean the area to be repaired with WOCA wood cleaner. Be sure the area is dry before applying oil. Leave the oil to absorb for a short period of time before thoroughly buffing and removing the oil from the surrounding area.

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- Sweep or vacuum frequently. Oil finishes soak into the wood, protecting from within rather than forming a barrier above, so the natural wood texture is felt at the surface. Debris left on the floor can get ground into the grain by foot traffic and become more difficult to remove.

CLEANING - DONT'S

- Never use ammonia, vinegar, petroleum-based cleaners, wax, polish, household dust treatment chemicals, abrasive cleaners, scrubbing pads, furniture cleaners, or any other non-WOCA brand product to clean your oil-finished floor.
- Avoid mopping the floor with just water. Always use WOCA Soap or Oil Refresher.
- Avoid using a micro-fiber mop, which over time may gradually remove oil from the floor.
- WOCA Wood Cleaner is not intended for regular cleaning. It is an aggressive cleaner that strips some of the oil from the floor. Other than using for small repairs as described above, do not use WOCA Wood Cleaner unless you are preparing the floor for a new coat of oil.

COMMERCIAL SPACES

- For commercial floors that require frequent cleaning, use WOCA Master Soap. The Master Soap is formulated to allow daily cleaning without leaving behind residue, which may cause excessive buildup over time.
- On commercial floors, apply WOCA Oil Refresher or WOCA Oil Refresher White three to four times a year.

If you need additional information, please contact us at:

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