



The Luxury Flooring Maintenance Guide

The need for maintenance depends on a number of factors and varies from case to case. Frequent maintenance is required on floors where there is greater wear, such as heavy foot traffic areas. It becomes evident when a floor needs regular maintenance as it will appear tired, old and will start to feel more difficult to clean.

The following are general tips and rules to conserve, protect and give the floor a longer life:

- Wood floors need a healthy room climate, i.e. a temperature of approximately 20C and relative air humidity of 50-65%. If the humidity is too low, gaps or cracks may occur, whilst the floor can swell and lead to buckling if the humidity is too high.
- Always use the manufacturers recommended cleaning products. They are specially made to benefit that specific floor and will optimize performance.
- Never use soft soap, hard soap or a scouring agent as they attack the floors surface. It is also recommended to not to use furniture polish or any sort of film-forming cleaning agents.
- Make sure there is a correctly designed entrance and an effective wipe off system. The ideal entrance would be to provide a boot scraper outside, followed by a coarse outdoor mat and then finally an indoor textured mat or rug. This ensures that hardly any moisture and grit will be brought into your home.
- It is recommended to walk at least three steps on each mat, the more you wipe your feet the more dirt will be removed. This not only protects your floor but saves you time and money. It will make every day cleaning a lot easier and massively lower maintenance costs in the long run.

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- Any loose dirt and sand should be removed immediately with a vacuum cleaner, mop, soft broom or dust cloth.
- Normal dirt can be wiped off using a damp cloth. Always wipe lengthways along the floors planks with a well wrung out cloth to ensure no moisture seeps into the wood.

Wood Flooring Maintenance

Daily Cleaning

Dry methods of cleaning such as using a vacuum cleaner or microfibre cloth should be carried out daily. A well wrung out mop or floor cloth can be used, as long as no moisture is allowed to seep into the floor. Daily cleaning should remove any standing dust or dirt which may later scratch your floor if stood on. Microfibre cloths would be our first choice product as the microfibre cloths use static electricity to trap the dirt, where as a regular broom would just push the dirt around.

Normal Cleaning

Normal cleaning removes adherent dirt. On floors subject to light foot traffic, this is usually necessary about every 2 weeks; on floors subject to medium foot traffic around once a week and more often on floors subject to heavy footfall.

This process is relatively straight forward and when done correctly can bring a fantastic brand new shine to your floor. This can be completed by cleaning your floor with a well wrung out mop using the manufacturers recommended care products.

Once you have cleaned your floor, the aftercare process can be vital to improve the appearance of your wood flooring. Solid and Engineered products should be treated approximately every couple of months with a polish or wax that has been recommended by the manufacturer. Make sure you follow the instructions

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on the side of the product as this will inform you how many layers are needed and exactly how to apply each coat.

Stain Removal

A mark on your floor can often be removed using the manufacturer's recommended cleaning agent. It is extremely important that a stain is wiped up immediately, the faster you act the easier the stain will be removed. However sometimes tough stains will only be removed using specific solutions. Here are a few hints on how to remove specific stains:

- White Spirit, Benzene or a similar product. – Removes Asphalt, Rubber, Oil, Shoe Polish, Soot, Dried in residues of chocolate or Fat.
- White Spirit. – Removes Wax crayon, Lipstick and Felt tip pens.
- Coolant Spray or Place a plastic bag containing ice on the mark and then carefully scrape off. – This will remove products that have stuck to the surface of your wood floor, such as Candle Wax or Chewing Gum.
- Cold Water. – This removes blood stains.

One of the most common and effective ways of removing stains from wood floor is to use hydrogen peroxide. This product is fairly cheap and can be purchased from multiple online stores. All you need for this process is a bottle of hydrogen peroxide and a cotton cloth or rag. Soak the cloth in hydrogen peroxide and place over the stain and leave for around 6 hours. Hopefully as the solution reaches the stain it is able to pull the stain out of the grain and remove the stain from your floor. After 6 hours remove the cloth and remove any excess solution left on the floor. If this process has removed the stain then fantastic, however if the stain has started to lighten or be pulled out, then we would advise waiting 12 hours and repeating the same process.

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It is always recommended you test the desired solution first in an inconspicuous area to check how your floor may react. If the stain removal process does not work, then the only option left would be to sand and refinish your whole floor.

Repairs

If scratches or dents occur, then do not worry as here is a range of ways to repair your floor:

- Small scratches and scrape marks can be dealt with using touch up lacquer
- Small impact marks can be filled with wood filler of a suitable and then use a touch up lacquer so that the area will blend in. Alternatively, applying a wet cloth to the surface of the dent and using a hot iron to push steam into the fibres beneath the dent. This will cause the fibres to expand so that the dent will swell, making the mark less visible.
- If there are deep scratches, cracks or damage, then the strips or planks that are damaged can be replaced. It may be advised when installing your floor to keep some spare planks in case they are needed in the future.