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The Nature of Wood

Wood is a hygroscopic material, which means it naturally takes on and gives off moisture to balance out with its surrounding environment.

Movement

Your wooden floor is part of your building and the performance of the floor is dependent on temperature and relative humidity within the building.

Wood is a natural material, absorbing and releasing moisture to and from the air. Timber used in flooring is seasoned or kiln dried to reduce the moisture content, although, the wood's ability to absorb moisture remains. This ability is lessened by applying a polyurethane or oil coating. All concrete subfloors should be moisture sealed with a DPM (Damp Proof Membrane) to prevent moisture being absorbed from the concrete into the timber floor.

Throughout seasons we experience a range of weather patterns; cold, damp conditions create high humidity levels causing the wood to swell, whereas heating and sunlight have the reverse effect. Therefore, a small degree of expansion and contraction is to be expected in any wooden floor and this can sometimes be visible.

To allow the wood to expand and shrink, expansion gaps are left between the floor and the wall, these gaps are covered by skirting or beadings and trims. Fine gaps may appear from season to season, especially in rooms that experience unusual or significant changes in humidity and temperature, from both heating and sunlight. To help minimise these effects, owners can stabilise the environment of the building through temperature and humidity control.

It is not recommended that a house be left unheated for long periods during winter, as the moisture content of the building will rise without the drying effect of the heating and venting associated with normal occupancy. After a period of being unoccupied, avoid sudden heating, as this may dry out the surface of the flooring faster than the middle and bottom of the timber, leading to differential shrinkage.

This can cause cracking of the polyurethane along the joints and cupping of the boards.



The Nature of Wood

Heating

All forms of heating, including freestanding heaters, radiators, heat pumps and under floor heating, affect the temperature of the floor. The floor should remain at a temperature below 24°C or 75°F, no matter what type of heating is used. Heating temperatures must be adjusted gradually as any extreme temperature change can damage the floor. For this reason we recommended that any manual control units for underfloor heating are enclosed and positioned so that only experienced people have access to them.

Each time underfloor heating is turned on, start at 15°C and increase the temperature by 1 to 2 degrees per day over a period of 7 days, until the required level is reached—below 24°C. It is recommended that you reduce the temperature in the same manner.

The moisture content of the floor should remain within the acceptable range of 9–13%. If you are considering a water-controlled system, it is important that the unit is controlled by the temperature of the floor, not the temperature of the water in the system.

Misusing temperature controls will prove too much for any wooden floor and will eventually lead to floor failure.

Insulation in concrete slabs, dehumidifiers and heat transfer kits will also impact on the temperature and humidity level of your wooden floor.



The Nature of Wood

Sunlight & UV

All natural products are affected by the sun. Strong sunlight and UV rays will have a detrimental effect on wooden floors. It will dry out the timber and splits may appear. It can also cause a distinct change in colour, particularly noticeable with darker woods and stains which can become significantly lighter. This can happen over a period of time, but occasionally it can happen almost immediately after the floor has been installed.

Colour change is most obvious when rugs are placed on the floor. It is advisable not to place rugs down during the first 3–6 months after install, to enable any fading to happen evenly throughout the floor. If you are out of the home for a few days or more, we advise you to roll up any rugs to give the floor an opportunity to share the sunlight and balance up tonal variations. The chemical reaction which causes materials to fade is accelerated by high temperatures. We therefore strongly suggest that you attach UV filters and/or blinds to windows, not only to protect your wood flooring but also your furniture, fabrics and carpets. We also recommend that the temperature of the room is considered. Please be aware that we cannot be held responsible for fading.



Timber Flooring in Wet Areas

(NOTE: not all floors are warranted for wet areas, although typically kitchens are covered – Contact us to discuss which product suits your requirement)

A wet area is an area within a building with a water supply system. It includes bathrooms, laundries and toilets but surprisingly sometimes excludes kitchens and bars/food prep areas.

Wet areas are problematic for all types of flooring and nothing is 100% waterproof, including most vinyls and tiles with grouting. There are many conflicting views with regards to timber flooring in wet areas. Whether you have a slow leak or a major flood it can be a costly repair. Ultimately it is often the insurance companies that bear the costs and it is worthwhile checking with your insurance company to find out exactly what type of flooring they cover in such an event. They are not all the same. That said, there have been many instances when flooded timber floors have dried out, given sufficient time, and require no remedial work at all. The most important remedy for any major spill, is to remove the liquid as soon as possible, without causing product shrinkage (see cleaning and maintenance).

We recommend a Moisture Barrier (DPM) to be applied on all concrete subfloors, this prevents dampness seeping through the concrete, and coming in to contact with the timber.

Timber flooring, whether prefinished or finished on site, will not have a continuous membrane on the top surface. Timber flooring moves seasonally, as it reacts to the humidity level within its environment, and the coating will crack between the boards during this process. A gap sealant is applied to the expansion gap left around the edge of the flooring when skirtings/toespaces are not being installed. It can also be placed under a skirting in bathrooms, toilets, laundries, etc. However, as with tile grouting, water can still work its way in and through capillary action, travel some distance.

We would not recommend either oiled or floating floors as the most suitable choice in wet areas.

Please discuss any concerns you have with regards to wet areas with your sales consultant.



What To Expect With Your Timber Flooring Installation

Ideally repairing, recoating and installation of your timber floor should be done before the installation of new carpets.

Particularly in the case of a floor being finished on site, since fibres can become airborne and could mar your finish. We cannot be held responsible for any damage to carpets.

If you are painting walls and skirting boards, we recommend applying the first two coats prior to your floor being repaired or recoated, followed by the final coat afterwards.

In the case of onsite finishing, sanding may be required for an optimal finish. If skirtings and/or walls are accidentally marked it may require touching up or a top coat of paint afterwards.

Preparing for Install

- Keep the installation area free of other tradespeople, equipment and dust.
- Close off surrounding areas to limit any dust spreading (if any)
- Moving furniture can be in addition to an installers quote
- As noted above, skirtings should be removed

Initial Protection for your new Floor

If tradespeople are still on site we advise that after the curing period stated by your installer, the floor is carefully swept clean of all dust and debris and covered with cardboard—flat side down—until all building work is completed. Do not affix this to the floor with tape, as it may damage the coating when removed. Tape each section to the other to hold these in place.



What To Expect With Your Timber Flooring Installation Cont.

Skirting, Toespaces Trims and Gap Sealant

In existing homes, skirtings will need to be removed, doorways, architraves will be undercut to allow the overlaying of your timber floor to your subfloor. Wood is a natural product that expands and contracts in reaction to the amount of moisture in its environment. A certain amount of movement is to be expected. Installers will leave an expansion gap around the edge of your floor to accommodate this. This gap is covered by skirting, toeskicks, trims or gap sealant.

Trims are generally used for transitions between one flooring type and another, for example between wood and carpet or tiles. Gap sealant can be used where skirting is not installed, for example at sliding doors.

Trims, Gap sealant and Skirtings may or may not be covered in your installers quote. It is worth checking if your builder or your wood floor installer will be supplying and completing installation of these.

Variation in Tone, Grading and Lengths of Timber Planks

As part of the selection process when choosing your timber floor, one of our timber consultants would have made you aware of the level of variation in the natural timber product.

We provide many reference images and details to assist the buying decision, so you get an outcome that exceeds your expectations.

Your installer on site may or may not be able to assist with selecting the right timber planks for the right area once it is on site, so we do ask that you clarify any details about your selection with us immediately once we've provided this document to you.

Cleaning & Maintenance

Cleaning Products

Only use the recommended cleaning products for your particular flooring/coating type and follow the manufacturer's instructions. These will be emailed to you, when your product is supplied.

Should we be working through your builder, installer or designer, please ensure they pass them on to you.

General Points to Note:

1. Always remove all spills and excess moisture immediately.
2. If using a vacuum, only use the Soft head setting
3. ALWAYS keep any moisture to a minimum when cleaning your timber floor – mops should be damp, not wet.

Cleaning Video for Oil & UV Oiled Floors

Cleaning and maintenance is essential to prolonging the life and finish of your wood flooring. By using our recommended cleaning products found in the Care Kits section, combined with the correct maintenance application as shown in the video below, you can ensure your flooring stays in excellent condition.





Maintenance Guide for Oiled & UV Oiled Wooden Floors

Introduction

If the product you have purchased has a hard wax oil finish that is UV cured immediately after its application in the factory process. The UV curing produces a set and cured film on the surface of the board, which makes it differ from a hand applied hard wax oil. This film firstly gives the finish additional strength to withstand the day to day usage on the installed floor, along with it not needing a further coat of oil/ hard wax oil upon completion of the floors installation, as is normal with oxidising oiled and normal hard wax oil finishes. The product should not be over-coated until the floor finish is ready and needing its first periodic renovation. If the product you have purchased is hardwax oiled (non-UV cured) this may require an additional coat of oil after installation.

Preventative Maintenance

Abrasive particles of dirt and grit trafficked on to a wooden floor finished with oil can be very damaging and seriously shorten the lifespan of any treatment. The floor's surface will quickly become dull due to scratches and the wood may be affected by the ingress of moisture and stains. Matting placed at external entrances can be highly effective at prolonging the appearance and life of the floor whilst reducing the frequency of refurbishment. It is important that matting is of a type which is double-ribbed. Matting should be large enough, ideally, to allow two steps across it, but, as general recommendation, the mat should be as large as practical.

It is also very important to ensure that the floor is protected from movable furniture, such as tables and chairs, and a simple solution to this is to protect the floor by applying felt furniture feet to the underside of the furniture. A high quality example of these is the Felt Furniture Feet (Order ref: HW 105067).

How To Look After Your Floor

An effective maintenance programme will keep the floor clean and looking as good as possible. The following information is designed to provide a starting point for such a programme and is appropriate for both commercial and domestic floors. However, all floors are unique and will require individual assessment because the factors affecting them will vary. Changes in traffic levels and seasonal changes will also need to be taken into consideration, for example, additional matting may be required during periods of snow or heavy rain. The frequency of any maintenance should reflect the use of the floor, and should be altered accordingly.

Dry Cleaning

Floors should be cleaned daily using dry cleaning methods, such as vacuum or dust control mop. This will remove any particles of dust and grit that may stretch the floor seal when trafficked under footwear, chair legs, and other items moved across the floor.

Damp Cleaning

Soluble dirt should be removed by cleaning using a spray-buff system – Such as Marldon Spray Mop (Order ref: HW950112) – a sturdy mop which features an on-board reservoir and user-controlled release of solution. The removable cleaning heads (machine-washable) should be replaced periodically to ensure effective maintenance.

The solution to be used for frequent cleaning of UV oiled wooden surfaces is the Marldon MXC710 Cleancare concentrate (Order ref: HW950059), formulated to give a non-streaky finish. This is available in a 1 litre container and the coverage is 2 caps per 5 litres of water.

Additional Cleaning

Wooden floors often become scratched and dull over time and require reviving. This can be done by applying a ready-to-use solution, like Marldon MXC700 Liquidwax Care (Order ref: HW950058) or MXC705 Liquidwax Care White (Order ref: HW950102) for lighter toned floors, both available in a 1 litre container. This not only revives dull and scratched surfaces but improves wear protection. This is ideal for removing heavy stains and marks too.

MXC705 Liquidwax Care White can be applied to the following UV Oiled products:

BPF13/1611/180 Jutland Henley, BPF19/1611/260 Jutland Wide Henley, HW926 Fendi Venture Plank, HW3656 Fendi Wide Venture Plank, HW3636 Amazon Wide Venture Plank, HW3674 Blanco Venture Plank, HW3676 Aspen Raw Venture Plank, HW9085 Newington Venture Plank, HW3005 Blanco Herringbone Venture Plank, HW3008 Amazon Herringbone Venture Plank, HW3001 Fendi Herringbone Venture Plank, HW16409 Columba Plank The Italian Collection, HW16609 Columba Chevron The Italian Collection, HW16009 Columba Herringbone The Italian Collection

Wooden floors that often become contaminated with grease, sweat or residue from other sources, may require additional cleaning to remove these materials. Periodically it will be necessary to re-finish previously oiled floors.

All the products mentioned above can be purchased from VidaSpace Limited, and application directions can be obtained by contacting 0800 119 388 or downloaded at www.vidaspace.co.nz

Check the product specs on our website to ensure you are using the correct cleaning method for your chosen flooring.

Maintenance Guide for Lacquered Wooden Floors

Preventative Maintenance

Abrasive particles of dirt and grit trafficked on to a wooden floor finished with oil can be very damaging and seriously shorten the lifespan of any treatment. The floor's surface will quickly become dull due to scratches and the wood may be affected by the ingress of moisture and stains. Matting placed at external entrances can be highly effective at prolonging the appearance and life of the floor whilst reducing the frequency of refurbishment. It is important that matting is of a type which is double-ribbed. Matting should be large enough, ideally, to allow two steps across it, but, as general recommendation, the mat should be as large as practical.

It is also very important to ensure that the floor is protected from movable furniture, such as tables and chairs, and a simple solution to this is to protect the floor by applying felt furniture feet to the underside of the furniture. A high quality example of these is the Felt Furniture Feet (Order ref: HW 105067).

How To Look After Your Floor

An effective maintenance programme will keep the floor clean and looking as good as possible. The following information is designed to provide a starting point for such a programme and is appropriate for both commercial, and domestic floors. However, all floors are unique and will require individual assessment because the factors affecting them will vary. Changes in traffic levels and seasonal changes will also need to be taken into consideration, for example, additional matting may be required during periods of snow or heavy rain. The frequency of any maintenance should reflect the use of the floor, and should be altered accordingly.

Dry Cleaning

Floors should be cleaned daily using dry cleaning methods, such as a vacuum or dust control mop. This will remove any particles of dust and grit that may stretch the floor seal when trafficked under footwear, chair legs, and other items moved across the floor.

Damp Cleaning

Soluble dirt should be removed by cleaning using a spray-buff system – Such as Marldon Spray Mop (Order ref: HW950112) – a sturdy mop that features an on-board reservoir and user-controlled release of solution. The removable cleaning heads (machine-washable) should be replaced periodically to ensure effective maintenance. We would suggest rinsing the removable cleaning head after cleaning approximately 10 sq.m. although this will depend on the usage of the area.

The solution to be used for frequent cleaning of lacquered wooden surfaces is the Marldon MXC770 Multicleaner (Order ref: HW950115) Apply the Marldon MXC770 Multicleaner using the spray mop system, spray direct onto floor until clean. Do not allow floor to get too moist. The Multicleaner is available in a 4 litre container.

The Life Cycle of the Floor

Periodically it will be necessary to re-finish previously lacquered floors. Depending on the surface condition, the degree of sanding required will vary and in some circumstances the floor will have to be sanded back to bare wood prior to lacquer application. Removal of all contaminants is required!

All the products mentioned above can be purchased from VidaSpace Limited, and application directions can be obtained by contacting 0800 119 388 or downloaded at www.vidaspace.co.nz

Check the product specs on our website to ensure you are using the correct cleaning method for your chosen flooring.

Care Kits & Accessories

At VidaSpace we care about your wood flooring, which is why we have introduced our Care Kits. With the right care and products your flooring will last a lifetime.

Our care kits are a complete guide to your flooring care and maintenance.

To reorder any cleaning products please contact us on 0800 119 388 or info@vidaspace.co.nz



For All Applications	Oiled Floors Kit - Clear SKU: VSCM001	Oiled Floors Kit - White SKU: VSCM004	Lacquered Floors Kit SKU: VSCM002
Cleaning Kit including Spray Mop Head, Multicleaner	✓	✓	✓
Clean Care Concentrate	✓	✓	
Multicleaner 4L			✓
Liquidwax Clear	✓		
Liquidwax White		✓	
Felt Feet Packs x 2	✓	✓	✓
Spare Mop Head	✓	✓	✓

Please speak to our team to make sure you select the correct cleaning kit for your floor.

Advanced Cleaning Mop Kit

HW950112

Marldon Spare Mop Head

HW950116



Description Regular cleaning is the key to keeping your floor looking great for years to come.

Includes x1 Marldon Spay Mop, x1 Marldon MXC770 Multicleaner 1L

STOCKED



Description Marldon Cleaning Mop Head

Includes x 1 Mop Head

STOCKED



Marldon Multicleaner

HW950115



Description MXC770 for frequent cleaning of washable floor surfaces. Natural formula, no VOC's.

Size / Quantity 4L

STOCKED



Marldon Cleancare

HW950059



Description MXC710 For frequent cleaning of oiled and wax finished wood and cork floors and other washable wood surfaces. Economical. Non streaky.

Coverage 2 caps per 5 litre water

Size / Quantity 1L

STOCKED



Marldon Liquidwax Care - Clear

HW950058



Description MXC700 For periodic maintenance and generally maintain oiled or waxed floors. Quick and economical. Removes heavy stains and marks.

Coverage 100m² per litre

Size / Quantity 1L

STOCKED



Marldon Liquidwax Care - White

HW950102



Description MXC705 For periodic maintenance and generally maintain oiled or waxed floors. Quick and economical. Removes heavy stains and marks.

Coverage 100m² per litre

Size / Quantity 1L

STOCKED



Felt Furniture Feet

HW105067



Description Bumper pack of 42 self adhesive assorted sized pieces. Heavy duty, self adhesive, protection for hard surfaces and floors and excellent furniture care. 2 x 110 x 150mm PADS - approx 3mm thick 16 x 19mm diameter FEET - approx 5mm thick 16 x 25mm diameter FEET - approx 5mm thick 8 x 48 x 30mm FEET - approx 5mm thick

Size / Quantity 42 pieces in total

STOCKED



Wax Repair Kit



Description The Fastfill DIY Repair Kit is an all in one repair kit for wood flooring. The kit is ideal for repairing scratches, dents and small holes in flooring. It contains 4 wax sticks in different shades to help you achieve the right colour to match your floor surface. Available in dark, medium, & light.

Includes Kit includes: 4 x filler wax sticks, 1 x mini melter (without batteries), 1 x fine grey Scotch Brite pad, 1 x instructions.

STOCKED



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I care for an oiled wood floor?

Oiled wood floors are very easy to care for. For everyday cleaning to remove dust or loose debris a broom, vacuum cleaner or dry mop is all that is required. For more thorough cleaning, damp mop using a diluted oiled wood floor cleaner. In public places where the footfall is greater, oiled wood floors may be damp mopped on a daily basis and should be treated regularly with a maintenance wax. This may be applied to the most heavily used areas or to the whole floor, spreading it with an electric, single-disc buffing machine with a beige pad. Maintenance wax need only be applied to residential flooring when the wood begins to look a little lifeless.

How do I care for a lacquered wood floor?

Lacquered wood floors are very easy to care for. For everyday cleaning a broom, vacuum cleaner or micro-fibre mop may be used to remove dust and loose debris. For wet cleaning the floor should be misted from a pump spray bottle to avoid it becoming too wet and dried using a micro-fibre wet head. Do not use conditioner, cleanser or steam mop on a lacquered wooden floor.

How long will my wood flooring last?

A properly installed and maintained wooden floor will last for many years (and decades). VidaSpace offer varying specifications of product which have different designed lifespans.

Can I install wood floors in a pet friendly home?

Wooden floors contribute to a healthy living environment for all of the family, including pets. It is important to keep pet claws trimmed to reduce any abrasion that these can cause. Maintenance products can be applied to all of our floors to reduce the appearance of minor scratches over time.

Is my wood flooring water/liquid proof?

All VidaSpace floors are tested for stain and spillage resistance. When floors are being installed into commercial spaces or busy kitchens, it is often a good idea to apply maintenance products soon after installation to ensure that the surface finish is maintained in these more demanding areas.

How do I maintain the durability of my flooring?

Day-to-day cleaning involves sweeping your floor and cleaning with a spray-mop and the correct cleaning solution for the surface finish. Periodic maintenance can be carried out on all floors through the application of a maintenance product, such as a refresher for lacquered floors or Liquid Wax Cleaner for UV oil, natural oil and hard-wax oil finishes.

What should I do if my flooring gets damaged?

Dents and scratches may occur over time these can be fixed with the application of maintenance products or easy to use repair kits.

Can my wood floor be sanded and refinished?

The vast majority of VidaSpace floors can be sanded and refinished multiple times over their lifetime. Each time a floor is sanded, the appearance can be tailored to fit the decoration scheme of the room/area where the floor is installed.



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