

---

## Caring For Your Hardwood Floors

Your hardwood floor is a major investment that can add value to the look and feel of a home. If they are cared for and maintained well, they can last for a very long time. No matter what type of hardwood floors you have, proper care and maintenance is absolutely essential to keep hardwood floors looking its best. Here are simple tips and guidelines to follow that will help maintain the finish and the natural beauty of your hardwood floors:

### A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST OF YOUR WAXED-OILED WOOD FLOOR

- A good-quality doormat placed at the entrance to the room will retain dust and grit.
- Your wood needs the right environment: ideally, a room temperature between 19 and 21 degrees Celsius and around 50-65% relative air humidity. Exceeding these limits may cause your floor to expand and contract unexpectedly and cause such things as gaps appearing in your floor.
- Wipe up any water or other liquids spillages immediately and take particular care with flower pots.
- Stick felt pads under the legs of all furniture.
- Lift and avoid dragging when moving the furniture
- Vacuum or sweep regularly to collect any dust and fluff.
- Trim pets' claws to keep your best friend from scratching the floors.

See our **maintenance** section to purchase **maintenance products**

## Oiled Finish

### DURING THE FIRST 10 DAYS

Freshly applied **Wood Floor Hard Waxoil** takes 10 days to harden right through. Few simple precautions should be taken during this period:

- Do not cover the waxed-oiled floor with protective sheets or rugs
- Do not move heavy furniture around
- Remove dust with a vacuum cleaner, brush or cloth: do not use impregnated fabrics
- Use protective felt pads underneath table and chair legs

### AFTER THAT

- Remove the dust regularly from the waxed-oiled surface using a brush or a vacuum cleaner
- Stains and marks can be easily removed with a neutral detergent (using a damp mop or cloth, never a soaking wet one)
- Important: Wait 15 days before the first renovation treatment to allow **Wood Floor Hard Waxoil** time to harden through

---

## ROUTINE CLEANING

- Wipe with a damp mop or cloth using diluted **Blanchon Natural Soap for Oiled Wood Floors** (250ml to 10L of water)
- Work on one area at a time, rinsing the mop or cloth regularly. It should always be well wrung out to avoid getting the wood too wet.
- Frequency: From once a week on light-traffic floors to daily cleaning in high-traffic areas. **Blanchon Natural Soap for Oiled Wood Floors** is 100% natural and therefore ideal for cleaning waxed-oiled wooden floors thoroughly whilst reinforcing their protection.

## REGULAR MAINTENANCE

- Simple and economical, regular maintenance allows fast treatment of the wood in order to renew the protective layer of waxoil and keep the wooden floor looking warm and natural.
- After ensuring the waxed-oiled floor is clean and dust free, spray on **Waxed and Oiled Wood Floor Maintenance** (using a hand sprayer) and wipe with a clean, dry cotton cloth to obtain a matt finish.
- Maintenance is easier using a machine – either polishing machine with revolving brushes or a professional buffing machine fitted with a beige pad. It is then similar to a spray method: polishing is faster and mechanical cleaning more effective.
- Full use of the area: 4 to 6 hours after buffing
- How Often? When the waxed-oiled floor starts losing its beautiful finish, generally once or twice a month
- On high-traffic wooden floors, regular maintenance can be completed with one coat of **Wood Floor Hard Waxoil** over the whole floor followed by careful buffing, either with a buffing machine or manually

**The more Waxed and Oiled Wood Floor Maintenance is used, the easier maintenance becomes.**

Important: On wood which has been stained using **coloured Wood Floor Hard Waxoil** (or previously stained wood), the amount of traffic on the wood floor will determine how the shade evolves over time. Maintenance should be done regularly and thoroughly to ensure long-lasting protection and decoration.

**Properly maintained waxed-oiled wood floors look better and better as time goes by.**

## REPAIRING A SMALL AREA

Small areas with a specific damage (cigarette burns, impact damage, etc.) can be repaired: rub or scrape to remove the damage and then re-apply some Hard Waxoil. This is one of the great benefits of a wooden floor treated with **Wood Floor Hard Waxoil**.

## REPAIRING A LARGE AREA

Waxed-oiled floors which have been maintained as often as the use requires, can be sanded using a buffing machine fitted with a sanding disc (about 120 grit) before applying a coat of **Wood Floor Hard Waxoil** (using a brush, short-hair roller or the spray method). Polish by hand or with a buffing machine.

---

## Lacquered Finish

### HOW TO KEEP YOUR WOOD FLOOR LOOKING LIKE NEW

If your wood floor has a matt, natural-wax, rough wood, or invisible-effect finish; use **Metamat**. If you have chosen a gloss or silk matt floor, use **Protector** instead. Both Products will give your floor a genuine protective coat and they will keep your wood floor looking as good as new. They are also recommended for use in high-traffic areas such as entrances, lounges, etc. They should be used neat (1L for one coat on 40m<sup>2</sup>) and applied with a micro-fibre mop, a sponge mop or a clean cotton cloth. Apply one or two coats onto a lacquered wood floor which has been damp mopped. They are silicone-free and slip resistant.

### HOW TO REMOVE STUBBORN DIRT AND STAINS

Heavy Duty Cleaner can clean the most stubborn stains. It is applied using a damp sponge or cloth which has been well wrung out. It can be used to clean varnished surfaces before applying a protective coat of Protector or Metamat (0.5L diluted in 10L of water followed by rinsing with a floor cloth or a damp sponge). It also removes any build up of Protector or Metamat which may occur after several years of maintenance for instance (1 or 2 liters diluted in 10 litres of water).

### EASY MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION

For routine maintenance on your lacquered wood floor, Blanchon offer two easy-to-use products which respect for the nature of the wood.

Varnished Wood Floor Daily Cleaner: Easy to use and economical, this mild soap is perfect for regular cleaning and revives the effect of Protector or Metamat. Daily cleaner is used diluted (2 glasses to 10L of water) and applied with a damp sponge-mop or cloth. No need to rinse.

Varnished Wood Floor Maintenance: Ideal for routine maintenance on lacquered wood floors as well as laminated, melamine or plastic floors. It cleans and keeps them looking as good as new. Maintenance is silicone free and slip resistant. It is particularly suitable for maintaining matt, natural wax, rough wood and invisible-effect finishes.

### REPAIRING SCRATCHES OR DENTS

Floors in very bad repair with deep dents or scratches in the wood should be sanded with a sanding machine and re-lacquered. For small inconspicuous areas where a light scratch has occurred, the **Lacquer Spray Aerosol** can be used.

**If you need to refinish or replace your hardwood floor, consult a professional for best results.**

## Underfloor Heating

Underfloor heating is now the heating choice for most new buildings and certain criteria need to be understood as to the effect of underfloor heating on timber flooring. It is important that the surface floor temperature does not exceed 27 degrees Centigrade. You will find it is far more efficient to run your heating at a lower constant temperature than to turn it on and off. Try to increase or decrease the temperature gradually as sudden temperature changes can harm your flooring resulting in shrinkage.

**urbaneliving** for more info visit: [www.urbaneliving.co.uk](http://www.urbaneliving.co.uk) call 0845 257 2382 email: [info@urbaneliving.co.uk](mailto:info@urbaneliving.co.uk)