VIENNA WOODS

QUALITY FLOORING CO.

# WOOD FINISH GUIDE

## Lacquer Finish (Polyurethane)

- Easy care - no annual maintenance required
- Good stain protection, the wood is sealed
- Scratches cannot be spot repaired like with an oil finish
- Entire floor will need sanding in future to repair scratches

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## Natural Oil or Hardwax Oil Finish

- The most attractive looking finish
- Annual application of maintenance oil is required (with mop or buffer)
- Scratches or marks can usually be spot repaired (depending on the oil brand)
- Some foodstuffs/liquids can leave a discolouration
- Does not require future sanding and finishing if maintained well

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## UV Oil

- Partially seals the wood for better protection against foodstuffs/liquid spills compared to Natural Oil finish.
- Annual application of maintenance oil is recommended but not mandatory.
- Scratches or marks can sometimes be spot repaired (depending on UV oil type).
- More natural looking than lacquer finish

### Variations in Natural Wood

Wood is a gift of nature. Colour variations and grain patterns will vary from plank to plank.
Colour variations from samples are to be expected. Colour changes may occur from exposure to UV rays.
Small samples do not accurately represent the level of knots that occur naturally in wood.
Some grades have more knots than others. Knot filler colour varies depending on product.

# DETAILED GUIDE

## Lacquer Finish

Acrylic lacquer entirely seals the pores of the wood. The lacquer is elastic and absolutely uncomplicated in care. An additional 'anti-scratch' coating makes the floor extremely durable and resistant. However, all these characteristics are at the expense of the totally natural surface.

Major advantages:

- High abrasion resistance
- Easy to care for
- Quality lacquers have high aesthetic value

Disadvantages:

- Cannot be spot repaired
- Will need to be sanded and refinished eventually
- Some lacquers are synthetic looking

### Lacquer Finish – what you need to know

#### Life Expectancy

A combination of screening and sanding maintenance means your lacquered engineered wood floor should last well over 40 years (based on a minimum top wear layer of 2.5mm).

#### Scratches

Once a lacquered floor is scratched you cannot do anything about it, so the floor will slowly deteriorate as scratches are accumulated. Dents can often be disguised using a coloured wax kit. You'll need to wait until you sand back or screen the floor in the future to restore the appearance of the finish.

It's vital that a high quality European manufactured lacquer is chosen that provides an elastic surface for maximum scratch resistance. Most European engineered wood brands provide these quality lacquer finishes.

#### Daily care

In New Zealand it is common to clean lacquered wood flooring with household cleaners, detergent or even methylated spirits; however these harsh chemicals will drastically shorten the life of your lacquered floor by leaving an opaque film on the finish that becomes difficult to remove over time. We strongly recommend you use Admonter Clean & Care or Ciranova floor cleaner on your lacquered wood floor.

#### Maintenance

It's worth knowing that you don't have to sand down to bare wood to make your floor look new again. **'**Screening' is a process where a layer of lacquer is removed and then a new coating applied on top. This is a much more cost effective and convenient process than carrying out a full sand and refinish process and will extend the life of your floor by preserving the top hardwood layer.

We recommend a combination of screening and full sanding and refinishing. After 5 or 6 years you can screen your floor, then after a further 10 - 15 years you can carry out a full sanding and refinish.

Special orbital sanders are used to sand back an engineered wood floor to ensure only a tiny layer of wood is removed – this means that an engineered wood floor with lacquer finish should easily last over 40 years (based on a minimum 2.5mm top wear layer).

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## Natural Oil/Hardwax Oil Finish

The oil absorbs deeply into the wood layer, hardening within to give excellent protection from wear. Widely viewed as the most attractive wood finish, the natural oils highlight the woods natural beauty.

Major advantages:

- Brings a very attractive, natural atmosphere to the interior
- Durable and simple to maintain
- Many oiled finishes can be spot-repaired, eliminating future sanding & refinishing
- The finish will never crack, blister or flake off
- The open pored wood regulates humidity levels for a heathy indoor climate
- The open pored wood is warm to touch and is slip resistant

Disadvantages:

- Regular maintenance is required
- More susceptible to discolouration from some foodstuffs/liquids

## *Natural Oil/Hardwax Oil Finish – what you need to know*

### Life Expectancy

A well maintained wood floor with a natural finish will never need to be sanded* as correct maintenance replenishes the floors appearance. It therefore should last a life-time.

### Appearance Over time

Natural oiled floors develop an appearance over time that is very different to a lacquer finished floor. You may see lighter and darker patches appear; especially in areas of high foot-traffic. Discolouration from some foodstuffs/liquids may occur. This is completely normal – Europeans tend to view this as part of the beautiful patina that develops on a natural oiled floor.

### Dark Marks from Food or Liquids

Natural oiled and hardwax oiled floors with a wax component are stain-resistant to European DIN standards against many foodstuffs. While stain-resistant to many foodstuffs & liquids, oil finishes however are not completely 'stain-proof'; the finish can be susceptible to slight discolouration once the foodstuff/liquid is removed. The longer the substance is left on the floor, the higher the likelihood of staining. As long as you accept that oiled floors can have a 'lived-on' appearance then this may not be an issue. Whether or not your oiled floor becomes stained over time is almost entirely dependent on your lifestyle. For example if your household is one where a lot of foodstuffs and liquids are dropped on the floor, then you may wish to consider another finish. Children and pets increase the risk of stains.

Some examples of what may stain your floor: oil based foods or liquids are the worst, however other types of foods/liquids and even water can leave a discolouration if you do not wipe it up. Chemicals and leave marks. Stain removers are available that often improve the appearance of dark marks and typically work well with water or tea/coffee marks.

Regular application of maintenance oil will make your floor more resistant to marking from foodstuffs and liquids, but will not entirely prevent stains or marks.

Scratches can be improved by either applying the original oil finish to the scratch or by applying maintenance oil. Stubborn scratches & stains can also potentially be removed by lightly sanding the affected area and applying more of the coloured or transparent oil*. Check with your flooring supplier before attempting this as the original finishing oil must be available.

### Daily Care

Natural finishes must be cleaned using the provided floor cleaner (known as wood floor soap). Use Admonter Clean & Care or Ciranova flooring soap. You must not use any product or cleaner other than what is specified by the supplier. Even household detergent can strip the floor of its natural finish. You can spot clean an area if required just by wiping a lightly damp sponge over the area. However, if you need to wipe repeatedly then make sure that floor soap is applied to the sponge, otherwise you may rub off some of the flooring finish and discolour your floor.

TIP: Keep some diluted Wood Floor Soap Cleaner in a spray bottle in the kitchen so you can spot clean the floor as required. Simply spray on the affected area and wipe with a sponge cloth.

**DO NOT REPEATEDLY RUB YOUR FLOOR WITH HARD PRESSURE AS THIS CAN REMOVE THE OIL FINISH**

### Maintenance

Natural finishes will leach out of the floor over time and need to be replenished on a regular basis. In general the schedule is as follows:

Oiled floor maintenance**:** apply maintenance oil immediately after installation using a micro-fibre mop or buffing machine (we can do this for you). Applying a coat of oil immediately after installation will provide the best stain protection. Re-oil every 12-36 months, depending on wear and based on the oil manufacturer's recommendation. You can spot treat high-traffic areas (e.g. a kitchen or hallway) if required.

### During Installation

It is vital that wood flooring with a natural finish is protected properly, especially if there is any work such as painting or construction occurring. Remember the pores of the wood are open, so if building products such as plaster filler etc are walked over the floor then it's not simple to remove these afterwards (you must not use mineral turps or household cleaners). The floor should be kept completely clean during installation; the only way to do this on a messy construction site is to either install the floor last (just before skirting), or completely cover the floor with protective layer.

Your floor should always be the very last thing to go in, however if this is not possible then you **must properly protect your floor by covering it completely with impact-resistant construction cardboard and taping the perimeter with low-tack tape.**
**For coloured oil finishes, this benefit depends on availability of coloured oil to spot repair the finish.*

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## UV Oil Finish

The oil is cured under UV lights to form a protective coating on the surface of the wood, increasing the floors resistance to dirt and providing a tough, durable finish. Best thought of as a combination of lacquer and oil finish; it has a similar appearance to natural oil finishes, but partially seals the wood for better protection against food & liquids.

Major advantages:

- More natural looking than lacquer
- Easier to care for than natural oiled floors – better stain resistance
- Responds well to application of maintenance oil but is more forgiving than a natural oiled floor if maintenance is not carried out

Disadvantages:

- Only some brands of UV oil can be spot repaired like natural oiled floors
- Some UV oil finishes are synthetic looking

## *UV Oil Finish – what you need to know*

### Life Expectancy

Your UV oiled wood floor should last well over 40 years, depending on the thickness of the top hardwood wear layer. While oiling a UV oiled floor is optional, it will extend the life of your floor.

### Scratches

As the wood is mostly sealed with a UV oiled floor, in theory you should not be able to spot repair scratches. However, some brands of UV oiled floors respond well to application of maintenance oil which disguise the scratch to a good standard.

### Daily care

VERY IMPORTANT!! Clean UV oiled floors with the supplier's recommended floor cleaner as household cleaners can permanently damage the finish. We recommend Admonter Clean & Care floor cleaner or Ciranova flooring soap.

### Maintenance

UV oiled floors respond well to periodic application of maintenance oil, but this is optional and is not absolutely necessary.

**NEVER USE A STEAM MOP ON LACQUERED OR OILED WOOD FLOORS!**