

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE

### Oil Finished Flooring

Note:

Oil finish is used to enhance the natural characteristics and general appearance of the hardwood flooring. However, it does not protect against wear as polyurethane finish does. It will scratch easily but it is easily repaired as well.

#### **AFTER INSTALLATION:**

WOCA Oil Refresher, available in Natural and White, should be used right after installation before the floor is exposed to daily foot traffic. Oil Refresher combines efficient cleaning with oil rejuvenation, as additional oil penetrates the wood and forms a protective layer in the surface.

Procedure:

1. Shake the bottle well before and during use.
2. The floor must be free of dust before treatment.
3. Mix Oil Refresher with lukewarm water in a ratio of 1:40 (3 oz. Refresher per gallon of water).
  - a. Mixing ratios can vary depending on wear and requirement.
  - b. We recommend using two buckets, one with Oil Refresher solution, the other with clean rinse water.
4. Mop a small section of floor with a lightly wrung cotton mop along the wood grain. Immediately afterwards, dip mop into Oil Refresher solution, wring it hard and mop the area, again along the grain. Change rinse water often!
5. Leave the floor to dry for approx. 2 hours before use.
6. For slightly higher sheen, polish the dry floor with a white pad.

#### **DAILY MAINTENANCE:**

1. Sweep dust mop or vacuum your floor regularly to remove any particles that could cause abrasion or scratch your floor.  
CAUTION: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a floor and should never be used.
2. Use a damp mop to remove spots and soil. Apply appropriate cleaning solution to the cleaning cloth / mop. Do NOT apply directly to the floor.
3. Do NOT leave any amount of liquids (water, juice, soft drinks, spills, etc.) on the floor. Clean any wet spots immediately.
4. Do NOT use a steam cleaner.
5. Do NOT use a wet mop or douse floor with water or liquid cleaners. Liquid can seep between the cracks and cause moisture damage.
6. Do NOT use any other cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish without consulting the cleaning agents' manufacturer.
7. Do NOT use steel wool or scouring powder which will scratch the floor.

#### **PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE:**

- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Protective sheets and/or plywood may be needed. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- Place protective pads beneath furniture legs and other heavy objects.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water from being tracked in during periods of inclement weather.
- Minimize abrasive material and dirt by placing mats on both sides of exterior doors and by using area rugs in high-traffic areas.
- Rearrange furniture and rugs periodically to avoid uneven color and shade changes from light exposure.
- Use protective mats beneath rolling chairs and keep furniture casters clean.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed.
- Remove shoes with cleats, spikes or exceptionally pointy heels before walking on the floor.

#### **CLIMATE MAINTENANCE:**

- Care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35% - 55% range. Flooring, especially hardwood, dimensions will be affected by varying levels of humidity.
- Dry Climates: A humidifier is recommended to maintain humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions during the winter months this also will cause shrinkage in flooring.
- Humid, Wet Climates: By using an air conditioner, heater, or dehumidifier proper humidity levels can be maintained to prevent excessive expansion due to high moisture content.

## **ROUTINE CLEANING WITH WOCA SOAP:**

When daily maintenance above failed to remove stubborn oil and dirt off the floor, clean the floor using WOCA Natural Soap.

Tip:

- DO NOT use microfiber as this will gradually wear down most wood floor finishes
- Work with 2 buckets; one with the Soap solution and the other one with rinse water.

Procedure:

1. Shake Natural Soap container well. Mix 3 ounces of Soap into each gallon of lukewarm water.
2. Wipe floor with soap water on hard-wrung mop or cloth.
3. Clean the floor with minimum quantity of water – leave soap water on floor briefly in order to dissolve dirt.
4. Remove dirty soap water with hard-wrung cotton mop or cotton cloth and rinse out in rinse water bucket. Change rinse water often!

## **PERIODIC MAINTENANCE WITH WOCA OIL REFRESHER (1-4 TIMES A YEAR):**

Tip:

- DO NOT use microfiber as this will gradually wear down most wood floor finishes.
- Work with 2 buckets; one with Oil Refresher solution, the other with clean rinse water.
- If a haze is visible after the Oil Refresher treatment, put a damp cotton cloth under a floor machine and polish it off, or mop the floor with water only.

Procedure:

1. Shake the bottle well.
2. The floor must be free of dust before treatment.
3. Mix Oil Refresher with lukewarm water in a ratio of 1:40 (3 oz. Refresher per gallon of water).
  - a. Mixing ratios can vary depending on wear and requirement.
4. Dip cotton mop into Oil Refresher solution and wring mop lightly.
5. Mop a small section of floor along the wood grain. Immediately afterwards, dip mop into Oil Refresher solution, wring it hard and mop the area, again along the grain.
6. Rinse mop in clean water. Wring hard. Change rinse water often!
7. Repeat moping sections of floor with Oil Refresher solution until all floor has been treated.
8. Leave the floor to dry for approx. 2 hours before use.
9. For slightly higher sheen, polish the dry floor with a white pad.

## **REPAIRS:**

Light scratches are best repaired by hand rubbing WOCA Master Floor Oil or the Color Oil on your floor on the affected areas using a cloth.

Procedure:

1. If necessary, first clean the area to be repaired with lukewarm water.
2. Be sure area is dry before applying oil. It is very important to let the floor dry completely before any Master Oil or Color Oil is applied. Any trapped moisture under the oil may cause mildew to develop, which causes black or dark blotches in the floor. It may also greatly increase drying time of the oil.
3. Leave the oil to absorb for a short period of time before thoroughly buffing with a cloth and then removing the oil from the surrounding area with a clean, dry cloth.
4. Deeper scratches or gouges should be sanded until they are no longer visible. Do not use a sand paper that is too fine. An 80-100 grit sandpaper will usually suffice, then clean the spot with lukewarm water and let dry completely. Then follow directions for light scratches above.
5. Whenever an area of the floor has been cleaned or repaired with new oil, it is important to remove all new oil from the surrounding area. This is easily done using a polishing cloth or a cotton rag, which then allows both areas to blend by having approximately the same sheen level. If necessary, steel wool can also be used to eliminate the “halo” effect of a slightly higher gloss level in the area around the repair.

Warning! Rags, pads or waste soaked with WOCA oil may self-ignite if improperly discarded. Immediately after use, place all rags and waste in a sealed, water filled bucket for proper disposal.