

Maintenance On Wood Floors.....



Maintenance:

Besides being a warm, beautiful and durable product wooden flooring is very easy to keep clean and to maintain. Like laminate and ceramic tiles - wooden flooring is a hard floor covering, any dust or dirt will stay on top of the flooring and will not penetrate in to the wood as will become trapped in the fibres in a soft floor covering (like carpets). This feature also makes wooden flooring an anti-allergy floor covering.

To make sure that you will keep enjoying the floor in the years to come - we want to give you a few practical tips with regard to how to maintain your floor.

Maintenance can be divided in three categories, namely:

1. Preventive maintenance.
2. Minor, regular maintenance.
3. Major maintenance.

1. Preventive maintenance.

Prevention is nothing more than taking measures to prevent scratching, wear; expansion etc.

Preventive maintenance is the same for solid wood and engineered (semi – solid).

For example:

- Place mats at the external entrances of the property
- Fit felt pads under the legs of the sofas, chairs and tables and clean the pads occasionally
- Heavy furniture needs to be lifted not pushed
- Don't place porous flower pots or vases on the floor i.e. terracotta
- All solid wood and engineered (semi – solid) floors are manufactured from natural products and can be damaged by high heels - therefore stiletto / spiked heels must be removed
- Prevent extreme humidity or dry atmosphere in the room i.e. tumble dryers must be connected to an outside vent
- Clean up spilled liquid immediately (e.g. due to watering the plants or knocking over drinks)
- Icy or snowy winters will need extra precautions to prevent salt / grit / water being walked on to the flooring

2. Oiled floors.

Minor maintenance for oiled floors:

- Vacuum, sweep or dust mop your floor once a week, or more if needed. The vacuum head must be brush or felt, and a wand attachment is preferable. Do not use vacuums with beater or hard heads.
- For a brushed and oiled floor use the appropriate maintenance products such as Elka Protect Plus.
- Never clean or wet mop with water. water may permanently damage the floor.
- Never use any of the following products or similar in nature on your floor: ammonia-based cleaners, acrylic finishes, wax based products, detergents, bleach, polishers, abrasive cleaning soaps, or acidic materials such as vinegar.
- Direct sunlight can alter the appearance of your floor.
Keep the relative humidity in your home between 45% and 55%.
- Treat the floor with Maintenance oil once or twice a year. The areas of heavy use (and where the floor looks "dry") need to be treated more frequently

3. Major maintenance.

For major maintenance solid wood, wood engineered floors must be sanded and re oiled
Sanding makes an uneven, rough or weathered surface even, smooth and clean again

3.1. Oiled floors.

If minor maintenance of the oiled floor is postponed too long, it is possible that the whole floor will have to be sanded and finished again