



## CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR OIL FINISHED FLOORS

The following recommendations are for oil finished floors. Like other floor finishes, oiled floors must be maintained in order to provide maximum protection and luster and are meant to be periodically re-oiled. When properly cared for, a WOCA oil finished floor will last virtually forever and will never have to be sanded. A wood floor finished with WOCA oil is resistant even to excessive wear and most liquid spills. Maintenance is easy!

### REGULAR MAINTENANCE

- ≡ Regularly vacuum or dust mop your floor to prevent sand or abrasive dust buildup that can scratch the floor finish.
- ≡ Wipe up spills and spots immediately with a damp cloth.
- ≡ One to four times a year, mop your floor with WOCA Oil Refresher. This will introduce a small amount of oil into the floor to freshen it and extend the time before a re-oiling becomes necessary. See website for more details.
- ≡ If cleaning more than four times per year becomes necessary, use WOCA Soap. Please remember to still mop with WOCA Oil Refresher twice a year. See website for more details.
- ≡ For commercial floors that require frequent cleaning, use WOCA Master Soap. The Master Soap is formulated to allow virtually daily cleaning without leaving behind residue, which may cause excessive buildup over time. Apply WOCA Oil Refresher three to four times a year.
- ≡ Do not use ammonia or oil-based wax, polish, household dust treatment chemicals, abrasive cleaners, furniture cleaners or any other non-WOCA brand product to clean your floor.
- ≡ Do not wet mop the floor, as excess moisture may cause damage to your wood floor.
- ≡ Only WOCA products should be used to clean your floor, which can be purchased from your flooring retailer.

### PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

- ≡ Place high-quality floor mats and area rugs near outside entrances to prevent dirt, sand and other unwanted substances from being tracked directly onto the flooring. Also, if you have wood flooring in your kitchen, a throw rug with a soft or felt backing should be placed in front of the sink area to catch spills and splashes.
- ≡ Attach felt floor protectors on moveable furniture, including chairs, tables, sofas, etc. that sit directly on the floor.
- ≡ Keep pet nails trimmed and filed in order to minimize excessive wear.

### TOUGH DIRT

- ≡ Tough dirt may require using a solution of WOCA Wood Cleaner. For complete instructions on how to use the WOCA Wood Cleaner see website for more details. When using WOCA Wood Cleaner, it may be necessary to re-apply more WOCA oil.

### REPAIRING SCRATCHES

- ≡ Light scratches are best repaired by hand rubbing WOCA Master Oil or Master Color Oil on the affected areas using a cloth. If necessary, first clean the area to be repaired with WOCA Wood Cleaner solution. Be sure area is dry before applying oil. Leave the oil to absorb for a short period of time before thoroughly buffing and then removing the oil from the surrounding area. For instructions on how to perform complete spot repairs, see website for more details ("Tips for a successful application" under "Technical").

## WOCA MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

### **WOCA oiled floors are maintained by cleaning with WOCA Soap.**

**You should mop your floor with WOCA Soap approx. one week after oiling it and then clean your floor with WOCA Soap only when dirty.**

**The soap solution not only cleans and nourishes oiled floors but also will leave a protective film on the floor after drying, making future cleanings quicker and easier.**

Never apply soap to an oiled floor until a curing period of at least 36 hours after the last oil application has passed.

**Sweep and vacuum the floor prior to cleaning with WOCA Soap.**

**An oiled floor needs cleaning with WOCA Soap only when dirty. In public areas, depending on heavy wear and dirt accumulation, a daily, weekly or monthly cleaning schedule should be used.**

**Mix WOCA Soap and warm water in a solution of 1:40 (4/10 cup of soap per gallon of water). For very dirty floors the solution mix can be increased up to 1:20 except with white oak floors. White oak floors should never be cleaned with a solution stronger than 1:40.**

**Mixing solution should be:**

- Two gallons of warm water + 6.4 oz. (just over ¾ cup) of Soap.**
- Three gallons of warm water + 9.6 oz. (just under 1 ¼ cups) of Soap.**
- Four gallons of warm water + 12.8 oz. (just over 1 ½ cups) of Soap.**

**If the soap solution is not properly mixed, footprints may show on a soaped floor even after drying. This is caused by using too much soap. To remove excess soap, clean the floor with WOCA Wood Cleaner.**

**Use a good quality sweep mop, such as the WOCA Sweep Mop, which has no loose ends.**

**Remember that a wood floor should be DAMP mopped.**

- \* In **one bucket**, mix a solution of **WOCA Soap** and **warm water**. Pour warm water in a **second bucket** to be used as rinse water.
- \* Dip a clean **mop** in the soap solution. Wring the mop. The mop head should retain enough moisture to dampen a 5' x 8' section of flooring. Spread the solution across the work area, then mop the damp area as you would a vinyl kitchen floor. For very dirty spots, let the solution set for a few minutes, then come back to the spot and scrub with a dish scrubbing brush. Continue mopping until the mop head becomes dirty or is not moist enough to thoroughly clean.
- \* Dip the mop in the warm water bucket. Slosh around very well. Wring the mop head as thoroughly dry as possible. This will remove dirty water and keep the mop head clean.  
**Do not rinse the previously cleaned floor.**
- \* Dip the mop in the soap solution and wring. Clean the next section.
- \* Repeat the process until the entire floor has been cleaned.

**The floor should be dry within 5 to 15 minutes. If water is still visible on the floor surface after 2-3 minutes, the mop was too wet during the cleaning process. Wipe up excess water and reduce moisture in the mop.**

**It is not unusual to see a "haze" on darker floors after soaping. Simply put a cotton cloth under a dust mop and quickly polish away the "haze".**

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## Oiled floors are maintained with WOCA Soap or Oil Refresher.

You should mop your floor with WOCA Soap or Oil Refresher approx. one week after oiling it and then clean your floor with WOCA Soap or Oil Refresher only when dirty. Oil Refresher should not be used more than four times/year as this may create unwanted build-up. Oil Refresher introduces small amounts of oil into the floor, which provides longer wear before re-oiling.

The soap/oil refresher solution not only cleans and nourishes oiled floors but also will leave a protective film on the floor after drying, making future cleanings quicker and easier.

Always wait at least 36 hours after the last oil application before applying soap or oil refresher.

An oiled floor needs cleaning with WOCA Soap/Oil Refresher only when dirty. In public areas, depending on heavy wear and dirt accumulation, a daily, weekly or monthly cleaning schedule should be used.

Sweep and vacuum the floor prior to cleaning with WOCA Soap or Oil Refresher.

Mix WOCA Soap and warm water in a solution of 1:40 (3.2 oz per gallon of water) and Oil Refresher in solution of 1:20 (6.4 oz per gallon of water). For very dirty floors the solution mix of Soap can also be increased up to 1:20 except with white oak floors. White oak floors should never be cleaned with a solution stronger than 1:40.

Mixing solution should be: Two gallons of warm water + 6.4 oz. ( $\frac{3}{4}$  cup) of Soap. Oil Refresher should be 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups.

Three gallons of warm water + 9.6 oz. (1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups) of Soap. Oil Refresher should be 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups.

Four gallons of warm water + 12.8 oz. (1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups) of Soap. Oil Refresher should be 3 cups.

If too much soap/oil refresher is used in solution, footprints may show on a soaped floor even after drying. To remove excess soap/oil refresher, clean the floor with WOCA Wood Cleaner.

Use a good quality swep mop, such as the WOCA Swep Mop, which has no loose ends.

Remember that a wood floor should be **DAMP** mopped.

- \* In **one bucket**, mix a solution of **WOCA Soap or Oil Refresher** and **warm water**. Pour warm water in a **second bucket** to be used as rinse water.
- \* Dip a clean **mop** in the soap/oil refresher solution. Wring the mop. The mop head should retain enough moisture to dampen a 5' x 8' section of flooring. Spread the solution across the work area, then mop the damp area as you would a vinyl kitchen floor. For very dirty spots, let the solution set for a few minutes, then come back to the spot and scrub with a dish scrubbing brush. Continue mopping until the mop head becomes dirty or is not moist enough to thoroughly clean.
- \* Dip the mop in the warm water bucket. Slosh around very well. Wring the mop head as thoroughly dry as possible. This will remove dirty water and keep the mop head clean.  
**Do not rinse the previously cleaned floor.**
- \* Dip the mop in the soap/oil refresher solution and wring. Clean the next section.
- \* Repeat the process until the entire floor has been cleaned.

The floor should be dry within 5 to 15 minutes. If water is still visible on the floor surface after 2-3 minutes, the mop was too wet during the cleaning process. Wipe up excess water and reduce moisture in the mop.

It is not unusual to see a "haze" on darker floors after using soap or oil refresher. Simply put a cotton cloth under a dust mop and quickly polish away the "haze".

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**WOCA TOP COAT INSTRUCTIONS**  
When top coat is applied using Master Oil Natural, White or Color.

**Warning: Oil soaked rags must be properly stored and disposed of as they can self-ignite!**

+Use the same master oil that was used for the base coat.

+If you are working on a previously oiled or factory oiled floor, the floor must be prepped with WOCA Wood Cleaner prior to applying the top coat. (If you are applying the top coat shortly after the base coat has been done, do not re-clean)

+Keep a piece of cardboard handy to rest wet pads and tools on.

+Place oil soaked rags into a bucket of water or in a metal container with a lid, as they can self-ignite!

+Do not walk on the wet oil with sneakers! (If wearing sneakers, put plastic shopping bags over your shoes.)

+Do corners, along walls and door frames by hand.

+Change pads and Polishing Cloths as they become tacky or dirty.

+Work with small amounts of oil until you are comfortable with the procedure.

+Remove the center circle from the buffer pads before use. Keep these to do hand work.

+Shake the oil well before and during use. When using Color Oil, stir and shake well before and during use.

- \* Place a **175 RPM buffer** over a **white Norton (or similar) pad** with a **WOCA Polishing Cloth** under the pad in the starting area. Pour a capful of oil onto the floor two or three feet away from the nearest wall.
- \* Slowly guide the buffer over the oil and start polishing the floor. You should see immediate results. Polish the floor until the oil does not continue to spread as you pass the buffer back and forth across the work area. The finished floor should appear silky with an even look with no spray or oil droplets visible.
- \* Pour more oil onto the floor as needed and continue polishing. Overlap work areas to ensure an even finish.
- \* Repeat the process until the floor is finished.  
**For slightly more sheen, polish once more, using only a white pad without the Polishing Cloth. Some floors may be slightly rough after the base coat. You may find it necessary to spread the top coat with the white pad only. If so, afterwards, and before the oil becomes tacky, go over the floor with a Polishing Cloth under the pad to remove any excess oil and to maintain a matte finish.**
- \* The oil will normally pre-harden to allow foot traffic in 5 to 6 hours when using Master Oil. If you expect heavy traffic, cover all or part of the floor, avoiding the use of plastic. Allow the finish to cure for 24 hours, before placing rugs and furniture on the floor.  
Note: In the future, when refreshing the top coat, follow these instructions. Master Oil Natural & White will preharden to allow foot traffic in 4 to 5 hours. Furniture may be placed in 5 to 6 hours, rugs in 24 hours. Master color oil will preharden to allow foot traffic in 5 to 6 hours. Furniture may be placed in 6 to 7 hours, rugs in 36 hours.
- \* Occasionally, a floor may need a second top coat to achieve an even finish. This can be done after pre-hardening.
- \* With Master Oil Natural and White, allow the oil 36 hours to fully harden before any water or dirt comes into contact with the floor. With Master Color Oil, allow 72 hours.

Another technique can be used instead of pouring the oil onto the floor. Pour Master Oil into a clean spray bottle. Because of the high solid content of Master Oil, not all spray nozzles will function properly and you may not be able to use this technique. Mist the oil onto the floor during the polishing process. Be sure to overlap work areas. Be very careful spraying the mist, as you can get oil on walls, woodwork and previously oiled areas. Walk away from the work area from time to time so you can better see the results. You do not want to leave drops of oil on top of the floor as they will harden and will need to be removed.

+Coverage will be 500 to 700 sq. ft. per liter of oil.

+It will take approx. 1 hour per 1,000 sq. ft. per coat per person.

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