

# CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## Lacquered Wooden Floor

Timber is a living material. A wooden floor, although no longer growing as part of a tree, is still very much part of its environment. As such, it responds to the light, temperature, humidity and wear to which it is exposed. As a general rule, a proper wooden floor takes four seasons to settle in. Over this time, it is normal to see some movement in the boards owing to changes in temperature and humidity.

As the floor ages the colour of the wood will mellow and change. This is a natural process that occurs as the surface of the wood is exposed to oxygen in the air and to ultraviolet light from the sun. Painted surfaces, upholstery, furniture and rugs all undergo this same process over time.

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR FLOOR

Wooden floorboards expand and contract across their grain as a result of increases and decreases in their moisture content. The following guidelines will help you maintain a consistent environment that best suits the nature of wood:

### TEMPERATURE:

The recommended temperature in a room with wooden flooring is between 18 and 23°C. This ensures that the wood does not overheat and dry out.

### HUMIDITY:

We recommend that you buy a hygrometer (combined with a programmable humidifier / vaporizer) to allow you to keep a close eye on the humidity levels in the room. This is especially important during winter when the months are cold and dry. Our timber flooring is seasoned so that it has a moisture content of between 8 and 11%. The relative humidity of the air in a room with timber flooring should be between 50 and 65%. This ensures minimal shrinkage and expansion of the timber.

### UNDER-FLOOR HEATING:

It is very important to observe the recommended room temperature and relative air humidity levels at all times if you have under-floor heating. We recommend that you keep the heating system on at a constant temperature throughout the year. Fluctuations in temperature from the extremes of cold to hot should be avoided. If the heating system temperature needs to be increased or decreased we advise that this is done in stages of no more than 1°C per day. Please also see our information sheet 'Under-floor heating with wood flooring'.

### WEAR AND TEAR:

Sharp objects such as high heels or chair and table legs can dent your floor. Whenever possible protect your wood by fixing felt or rubber pads under chairs and sofas and under furniture that may be dragged across the floor. Particular attention should be given to areas in the room that encounter heavy foot traffic such as entrances, walkways, corridors and areas in front of sinks. The floor in these places may need additional protection, such as a mat.



## CLEANING YOUR FLOOR

### REGULAR CLEANING:

Regular cleaning should be carried out using a soft broom or a vacuum cleaner. It is very important to prevent any excess moisture coming into contact with the floor. Lacquered floors should not be cleaned using excessive amounts of water. Spot cleaning should be done with a damp cloth. Light mopping can be carried out only as long as the mop is very well wrung out. Cleaning products should contain neither ammonia, which can dissolve lacquers, nor abrasives, nor bleach. A mild detergent should be used. We would recommend a product such as Osmo 'Wash and Care'.

### PERIODIC CLEANING:

Periodic cleaning should be carried out using specialist products to refresh and revitalise the flooring. Specialist products and applicators are available from the Solid Floor showrooms.

### STUBBORN STAINS AND MARKS:

Stubborn stains or marks can usually be removed using clean water, or as weak a solution of detergent as possible. Only strengthen the solution if necessary. All the cleaning materials mentioned here, including buffing machines, can be obtained from Solid Floor.

## RESURFACING THE FLOOR

The lacquer finish on your wooden floor should provide years of reasonable protection against dirt and moisture. After a number of years you may wish to have the lacquered surface sanded down and refinished. You could then choose to re-lacquer the floor, have it stained first or even refinished in oil. Solid Floor offers sanding and refinishing services.



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