



Usage and maintenance instructions for oiled hardwood floor (Domestic use)

Upofloor oiled is a colourless type of finishing in which the oil that is applied to the boards at the factory is absorbed deep in to the wood fibres by means of brushing. The Upofloor product range also features coloured oiled products the maintenance of which generally follows these instructions.

Wear-resistant and easy to maintain, oil-finished surfaces accentuate the organic and natural properties of wood. The oil that is used in Upofloor oiled products includes vegetable oils and waxes produced from natural materials. The emission classification E1 has been granted to varnished and oiled Upofloor boards. This system promotes the development and use of low-emission construction materials. In order to preserve the good properties of your oiled hardwood floor through the years, you should take the following issues into consideration with regard to maintenance during installation and use.

Hardwood floor maintenance is easy and pleasant when you keep these essential points in mind:

- Correct humidity and temperature, with regard to floor heating as well (relative air humidity (RH) at 40 to 60 % and room temperature at +18–24 °C)
- Maximum surface temperature +27 °C and maximum daily temperature variation 5 °C
- Door mats on both sides of the door protect against dirt and scratching
- Sparse use of water in cleaning and correct washing and conditioning agents
- Immediate removal of stains
- Pieces of felt under furniture legs
- Lowering of temperature and reducing of ventilation when apartment is empty, especially during the heating season
- Follow the natural colour changes of the boards, and move mats and furniture, if necessary

Room air and floor heating

Wood is a natural material and is subjected to heavy stress by air humidity variations (it expands and contracts), in the Nordic countries in particular. It is therefore important to maintain the relative air humidity (RH) at 40 to 60 % and room temperature at +18–24 °C. If conditions deviate significantly from these values, gaps may appear in the wooden floor or it may expand, for which the manufacturer, retailer or installer cannot be held liable. You can reduce changes in the wooden floor's shape by using an air humidifier during dry times and heating and ventilating in humid conditions. If you stay away for longer periods in the heating season, you can maintain the air humidity at a higher level by bringing the temperature down to around +18°C and setting the ventilation system to its minimum level. You should acquire a moisture meter / hygrometer for your apartment, since the aforementioned humidity and temperature values are healthier for you and your family. During the winter season, so-called Air hygrometers display readings that are on average 10 to 15 % too high, unless calibrated at least once a month. We recommend buying a digital temperature/moisture combo meter. Beech, jatoba (not sold in the Nordic countries) and maple react more intensely to changes in air humidity than other kinds of wood, and are thus not recommended to be used in conjunction with floor heating.

Floor heat should be distributed evenly throughout the whole floor area. With heated floors, the temperature of hardwood floors should never exceed +27 °C. The maximum floor surface temperature variation within a day should be 5 °C. Take this into account, especially under carpets and with regard to water-circulated floor heating systems, by measuring the surface temperature at the beginning of the circulation system. Under thick carpets, the surface temperature of the hardwood floor is 1 to 2 degrees higher than on the surrounding floor area. Floor heating causes the floor surface to dry up and induces additional wood contraction.

Post-installation maintenance

Loose dirt and impurities are cleaned off hardwood floors by using a vacuum cleaner. Oiled surfaces do not necessarily require any further

treatment. This may, however, be appropriate on areas that are subjected to more wear such as kitchens and foyers. Use a mild cleanser and an almost dry short string mop. Osmo Color Wash & Care, an oil soap solution mixed with water, is a suitable cleanser. After mopping/wiping, the floor must be dry. Wipe the floor dry with a clean cloth, if necessary. Follow dose instructions on the package. Protect recently installed floors with breathable and suitably sturdy material such as pieces of cardboard. Do not not tape the protective materials to the floor.

Note! UV radiation alters wood colour over time. The colour of dark-coloured wood species darkens; in light-coloured species changes are less noticeable. Variations in colour – such as carpet outlines – will even out in time as they are exposed to daylight. The colour of white oil-treated products may change, for instance, under carpets without direct UV radiation. Since wood is a natural material, exceptions to colour variations are plausible.

Proactive maintenance

Stop dirt at the door. Place suitable mats on both sides of the front door and beneath the coat rack to prevent sand and water from getting into the rooms. These mats should cover the length of around three steps. Remove abrasive dirt immediately. Pieces of felt attached under the legs of furniture will help protect your floor from scratching. Avoid walking on the wooden floor with stiletto heels and ensure that your pets' nails are short. When moving such furniture as refrigerators or freezers, cover the floor with, for instance, mats in order to prevent scratches and dents.

Use as little water as possible when cleaning (almost dry wipe). If visible moisture does not evaporate within a minute, you are definitely using too much water. Immediately wipe away spilled water from the floor. Remove stains when they are fresh, either with water or a mild cleanser and dry the floor. Avoid scrubbing with hard cleaning implements except when removing stains from small areas. Most commonly, hardwood floors are damaged during moving. Hardwood floor surface cannot withstand the sliding or dropping of heavy objects on it. Office chairs equipped with casters require a mat or a plastic plate designed for the purpose underneath in order to prevent abrasion damage to your wooden floor.

Cleaning and maintenance

Loose dirt and impurities are cleaned off finished hardwood floors by using a vacuum cleaner and an almost dry mop cleaning cloth. Use a mild cleanser and an almost dry short string mop. Osmo Color Wash & Care, an oil soap solution mixed with water, is a suitable cleanser that also conditions the oiled surface. After mopping/wiping, the floor must be dry. Wipe the floor dry with a clean cloth, if necessary. Immediately wipe away spilled water from the floor. Remove stains when they are fresh, either with water or the mild Osmo Color Wash & Care cleaning concentrate, and dry the floor.

If the floor is dirtier than usual, first remove dust and rubbish from the floor with a vacuum cleaner and then wipe with a floor wiper. Add a larger than usual amount of Osmo Color Wash & Care to the washing water. Dry the surface since moisture must not be left on the floor.

For hardwood floor maintenance, use a conditioner designed for oiled surfaces (e.g. Osmo Color Liquid Wax Cleaner, Tikkurila's Nostalgia or Trip Trap / Woca Maintenance Paste) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Remove loose dust and dirt from the floor with a vacuum cleaner or floor wiper. Wipe the floor one small area at a time using a cloth or floor wiper moisturised with a conditioner.

Stain removal

You can also clean and maintain the abrasions and scratches on the floor and remove persistent stains with the conditioner. Apply a thin layer of

conditioner with a clean cloth to the surface to be cleaned and scrub lightly until the dirt attaches to the cloth. Let the conditioner dry for around 30 minutes and, if required, wipe with a dry cloth. You can also use the Osmo Color Liquid Wax Cleaner spray or the Osmo Color Easy Wax Care- wiper.

Oil surface reconditioning

Remove loose dust and dirt from the floor with a vacuum cleaner or floor wiper. Clean the worn or damaged surface. There is no need to sand the surface. Apply a thin layer of Osmo Color oil waxes with a clean cloth to the area to be reconditioned, scrub lightly with a floor cloth and let it dry. If required, polish with a soft cloth. Always remember to follow the conditioner manufacturer's instructions (exceeding the dose instructions may cause layers of cleanser to gather on top of one another, contributing to the floor getting dirty or variations in the level of sheen).

Scratch repair on colour oiled hardwood floors

Select a colour from the Osmo Color range of transparent wood wax or covering wood wax. If necessary, these colours may be mixed together. The colours can also be made lighter by mixing the coloured product with the colourless Osmo Color oil wax (no. 3062). Since the result of this reconditioning is dependent on, in addition to the colour itself, the wood's colour, hardness and porousness of the wood type and colour agent application method, it is recommended you oil a small area (for instance, behind a door) as a test in order to ensure that the correct colour tone is achieved. Mix the entire amount of colour before starting work. This will eliminate the possibility of colour variations owing to dosage errors and uneven distribution of pigments. The following table indicates the correlations between Upofloor products and Osmo Color wood waxes.

Product	Reconditioning oil code (Osmo Color)
Upofloor white oiled, Latte	3111
Upofloor Antik oiled, Mocca	3168

Reconditioning

For the reconditioning of minor scratches and dents, use the water-based putty included in the Upofloor reconditioning kit for varnished wooden floors. Damages to the Upofloor RealLoc boards are best rectified by replacing the defective boards. This replacement should be done by professionals, either without removing the surrounding boards or by dismantling the hardwood floor, starting from the wall, and replacing the damaged boards. The other boards will not be damaged, and can be reused. It is best to dismantle a hardwood floor in the winter season, with relative air humidity at its lowest level. When dismantling, you should pay special attention to the end joint.

More severe damages

We recommend sanding of the hardwood floor until the wood is reached, and a new finishing performed by a professional. Further enquiries regarding Osmo Color products can be addressed to Sarbon Woodwise at: info@osmocolor.com

Maintenance of hardwood floors in public places is different from that of floors in private houses. Contact us or visit our website at <http://parketti.upofloor.fi/en>.

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