

CHARACTERISTICS OF OIL-FINISHED WOOD FLOORS

Oil-based Finishes

The oiling of hardwood floors, an ancestral method of caring for wood flooring is back on the scene. Today oil finishes are gaining in popularity, mainly due to the advantages of their natural protective qualities and healthy components. Oil based finishes are recommended for use on most wood types. They are simple to apply, easy to maintain, and budget friendly. Moreover, oil based finishes are valued by eco-oriented consumers for their rustic feel and warmth.

Eco-Friendly Treatment of Interior Wood Flooring

Thanks to their natural penetrating capacity, oil finishes have the ability to coat the wood fibres, saturate the pores without clogging them up and preserve the flexibility and the elasticity of the wood. A properly oiled floor is dust-proof, moisture-proof and is easy to maintain.

After an oil-based restoration of your hardwood floor, the inherent characteristics of hardness and flexibility of the wood are not only preserved but enhanced; stripes and markings all but disappear after applying a coat of oil on the floor.

The current 'back to nature' decorating trend emphasizes the taste for rough and natural materials which are perfect for oiling. Oil based finishes do not remain on the surface but penetrate the wood fibres. Contrary to varnish, oil based finishes leave a soft sheen which brings out the natural wood tones and colors. However, as with all wood flooring, regular maintenance is a must

Natural oils

The oils used as finishes for hardwood floors are natural and consequently have no negative effects on the ambient air in the home, contrary to certain other finishes which can release harmful chemical vapours upon application. Whereas these products can require weeks to evaporate completely, the oils obtained from natural sources are usually without danger.

Wood which breathes

The principal quality of oil-based finishes lies in the fact that they let the wood breathe. When wood is varnished or glazed, it loses its capacity to absorb and balance moisture and can cause the wood to crack.

Oiled floors better resist variations in temperature and can even be used in the bathroom. Oil penetrates deeply in the pores of the wood and protects against abrasives while retaining its rustic and natural beauty. Oil also emphasizes the wood grain and imperfections are not as apparent as with varnish finishes.

The oiled finish is achieved by saturation. This technique which increases the resistance and the longevity of the hardwood floor, also facilitates maintenance. The daily maintenance of the floor is carried out with the use of a broom or the vacuum cleaner. The floors must also be cleaned regularly with a damp mop. Household detergents are to be proscribed. Floors with oiled-based finishes should not be cleaned with any grease-removing product!

Contrary to varnished floors that must be sanded when worn or scratched (and the extra work associated with the process) or laminates (when the top coat is used, the product must be replaced), a simple application of oil is enough to regenerate your floor and restore its original beauty. With time, the oiled floor becomes increasingly resistant and easier to maintain. It acquires a patina which is a reminder of the old wood floors of bygone days.