

MAINTENANCE GUIDE

FOR MONOCHROME PRE-OILED FLOORS

Congratulations!

By opting for the quality of AWPf wood flooring and the elegance of our floors, you have made the right choice! Follow the instructions in this easy maintenance guide to preserve the beauty of your pre-oiled floor for years to come.

Protect your investment by maintaining the quality and beauty of your floors

1. Sweep or vacuum regularly to rid your floor of dust and eliminate abrasives that can scratch the finish.
2. Spray a small amount of our cleaner on the microfibre surface of your mop and clean one section of the floor at a time using a back and forth motion in the direction of the length of the floorboards.
3. Repeat the operation on the other sections of the floor. Wash the micro fibre mop cover when necessary. For best results, clean the surface of your hardwood floor at least once a month.

Notes

Never saturate the floor with water when cleaning but simply use a damp mop. This will prevent water and detergent from being absorbed by the wood fibres.

Too much water can infiltrate the wood fibres and damage the floor. It is important to use floor cleaners sparingly. A soiled mop can also leave traces on the floor. Change the micro fibre cover of the mop and wash it regularly. Do not use softeners during the washing or drying cycles.

Prevent deterioration

AWPF wood floors are very resistant to wear but they are not indestructible. Prevention is necessary. These simple steps will help you preserve the beauty of your AWPF pre-oiled floor for years to come.

Recommendations

- **Sweep or vacuum regularly** to rid your floor of dust and eliminate abrasives that can scratch the finish.
- **Quickly wipe spills** from the floor to protect it from excess liquid.
- **Place mats** outside and inside entrances to prevent sand and abrasives build-up on your floor. Avoid mats with rubber or dense backings that prevent airflow beneath rugs and retain abrasives and humidity.
- **In the kitchen**, place mats near sink, dishwasher and workstations to protect the floor from accidental spills, detergents, cooking utensils and other mishaps.
- **Stick felt pads** under chair legs and furniture to ease movement and prevent scratches. Keep them clean and check for signs of wear.
- **Opt for large soft polyurethane rubber casters** rather than narrow rigid plastic ones. Plexi-glass chair mats are also recommended.
- **Protect your floor when moving heavy objects.** Place on a reversed mat or blanket, a smaller piece of plywood. Place object on this and slide smoothly over the floor.
- **Be careful** with pointed objects such as spiked heels and sport shoes that may damage the finish of your floor especially if they are worn or damaged.

Note : After water and sand, spiked heeled shoes are the worst enemies of wood floors. This applies to all surfaces, even a concrete floor.

- **Maintain relative humidity level around 50%.** for your own health, your furnishings and your wood floor. Wood is a natural material that reacts to relative humidity variations when moisture is absorbed or released. When wood absorbs or releases moisture a change in its dimension can appear. This stabilizes when ambient conditions return to normal.
- **Protect your floor from sunlight** and intense artificial lighting to reduce discoloration of exposed wood surface. This phenomenon with wood surfaces is normal, natural and varied according to specie.
- **Occasionally move furniture and carpets** around and reduce intense light sources to minimize color contrasts.

Pre-oiled floor	Relative humidity level to maintain in the house	Wood movement during a humid period (Wood absorbs excess humidity and expands)	Wood movement during a dry period (Wood releases humidity, and contracts)
Type of Wood	Between 45 and 55 %	55% and more	Less than 45%
Solid Wood (Engineered)	Between 35 and 60 %	65% and more	Less than 30%
Advice	Maintain relative humidity at the recommended level throughout the year	Control humidity level with a dehumidifier or heating system and good ventilation.	Use a humidifier to minimize excessive shrinking of wood boards.

Warning!

- Never pour cleaner or any other liquid onto floor surface.
- Do not use a wet mop that leaves excess water.
- Do not use wax, oil-based detergents or other household cleaning agents on your floor, since these products may dull or damage the finish or leave a greasy film that will render your floor slippery and make maintenance more difficult.
- Do not raise or lower temperature of sub floor radiant heat system more than 5°F (2.8°C) per day when turning system on and off. The wood surface temperature must never exceed 80°F (27°C).

First aid kit for your floor

AWPF wood floors are easy to maintain. However, in case of minor incidents, these useful tips will help you preserve the beauty of your floor.

Problem	Solution
Food, soft drinks, alcohol etc.	Promptly sponge or wipe with damp well-wrung cloth. Spray with cleaner to dissolve spot and wipe off.
Sticky, stubborn or dark stains	Spray cleaner on damp cloth and wipe off. For more stubborn stains, dampen the cloth with a bit of thinner or lighter fluid and wipe stain away.
Marks from shoes, rubber casters, tar etc	Spray cleaner on cloth and wipe off.
Grease, oil, lipstick, coloring pencil, etc.	Spray cleaner on cloth and wipe off.
Chewing gum, candle wax, crayon marks etc.	Apply a plastic bag filled with ice cubes to surface until soiled area hardens and crumbles. Spray cleaner on a cloth and wipe off.
Ink	Dampen a cloth with a bit of thinner or lighter fluid and wipe stain away.
Deep scratches, major problems	(Replace damaged board)
Deep scratches, dents, gouges, bumps over entire floor	After many years of use or abuse, floors show normal wear. Ask your authorized AWPF distributor about sanding and refinishing your floor if necessary.

Question

Is a damaged floorboard easy to replace?

Yes. One of the advantages of pre-finished hardwood floors is how easy it is to replace a damaged board.

Replacing damaged floorboards is quick, clean and inexpensive compared to in-depth sanding and refinishing. It only takes about 15 to 20 minutes per board, which is why you should keep a few boards on hand after installation.

How to replace a damaged board

1. Select a replacement board that most likely matches your floor.
2. Cut out damaged board along the edges, using a wood chisel or circular saw.
3. Lift out center of cut-out board with a wood chisel, and then carefully remove its tongue and groove edges to avoid damaging neighbouring boards.
4. Clean floor and sub floor of any residue.
5. Cut tongue-edged end of replacement board to required length.
6. Remove lower edges of groove from end and side of replacement board.
7. Make a trial insert to ensure replacement board fits well, then remove.
8. Reshape the micro-V joint of replacement board with sandpaper and retouch with a bit of stain where required.
9. Finally, spread glue over sub floor and glue replacement board in place. Immediately remove any excess glue visible on surface.

To refinish of your AWPF wood floor

Despite its long-lasting exclusive finish, your floor will naturally show signs of wear after years of use. In most cases, the finish can be easily restored with a simple application of a quality oilbased finish compatible with the original AWPF finish.

This type of refinishing is simple and economic compared to in-depth sanding. You have the option of refinishing the whole floor or just a part of it. Ensure that the new gloss level is the same as that of the original finish.

You would like to change the color of your AWPF floor?

Another great advantage of a AWPF pre-oiled floor is that you can change the color or refinish it like new after considerable wear. Deep sanding will eliminate the micro-V joint and uncover the wood's natural color. Simply apply a new stain followed by one or two coats of oil based finish or skip the stain and apply oil (to preserve the natural wood tones).

Consult your AWPF authorized distributor to evaluate and/or have the work done, or follow the instructions below.

Applying the oil-based finish

On an installed floor ready for sanding

Make sure you use the right grade of sandpaper because the grain is different when it comes to varnish and oil-based finishes. Please advise the person(s) doing the work. An orbital sander sometimes leaves light indentations near the edge of the walls. Sand in the direction of the grain of the wood in order to make sure the oil-based finish does not penetrate the indentations.

This phenomenon is accentuated when dark oil-based stains are used. For best results, please note that the oil must be applied at an ambient temperature superior to 18°C and a relative humidity level inferior to 65%.

Before application, the surface of the floor must be clean and dust free. Never wet a newly sanded surface.

Applying Monochrome Oil

Before opening, vigorously shake the container of transparent or coloured oil. Pour a small amount of the product on a clean cloth and apply using a circular motion in the direction of the grain of the wood, to aid penetration of the oil. It is highly advised to treat a small surface at a time (about 10 square meters). After about 5 or 10 minutes, wipe the excess oil with a clean cloth because the residue could crystallize. At all times, oils must be completely absorbed by the wood fibres.

Important : During application regularly mix the contents of the container because the stains have a tendency to settle on the bottom (as with orange pulp in orange juice) and this may change the color of the oil.

Once you have finished, the surface may be polished with a polishing machine equipped with a soft pad. This will lightly augment the degree of lustre and facilitate maintenance. But wait 1 or 2 hours after application before proceeding with this step.

Let the floor dry for about 24 hours. Depending on the specie, the environment and the color, timing may vary. Adequate ventilation together with the right ambient temperature (20 to 25°C) will accelerate drying time.

Revitalizing a pre-oiled floor

Start by cleaning the floor using the recommended, specially designed maintenance products. Let dry and apply the transparent finishing coat as mentioned above.

You may add a small amount of coloured oil in the finishing coat to lightly boost the color. However, it is important to test the color on a small surface before proceeding on the whole floor, depending on the degree of wear of the floor.

Touch-ups

For minor repairs on a scratched floor, start by sanding lightly with sandpaper (grain 120) or using a green pad.

Sand an area slightly larger than the damaged part of the floor while applying less pressure on the extremities of the defect. Then apply as needed the transparent or coloured oil-based coat as mentioned above.

Wipe lightly until the color obtained matches the wood floor color. A second coat may be necessary to get the desired results.

Let dry for at least 24 hours.

Safety is a must!

It is highly recommended to wear safety goggles during handling and application of the oil finishes. Use nitrite gloves to protect your hands and skin.

Important : Before disposing of the oil soaked cloths, place them in water to prevent spontaneous combustion.

Please keep the oil finishes in hermetically closed metal containers to avoid deterioration of the products.

Special instructions

- Since the cloths used during application of the products become saturated with oil, we recommend that you change them regularly (after 600 to 700 sq. ft.).
- When applying the oil, best results are obtained with a clean cloth, but a paint brush, sponge roller or spatula may also be used. Be sure to remove all excess oil after application, no matter the method of application.
- Contact your authorized Dava Distributor for evaluation and state of your floor and/or to have the work done. They will give you further advice on the choice of oil to use, the drying time and on the method of application. Furthermore, it may be preferable to wait a few months before doing the work, according to the season of the year or the wear of your floor.

Recommendations

- **When the pre-oiled floor leaves the plant**, it is highly recommended to wait a minimum of 7 days before installation. During the first few days following installation, certain precautions have to be taken: avoid placing rugs on the pre-oiled floor, avoid moving heavy furniture, use a broom or vacuum cleaner, no heavy duty cleaners and please avoid spilling water or other liquids on the floor. We suggest using felt pads under chair legs and other furniture to protect your floor.
- **If renovations have to follow the installation of the floor**, protect it with cardboard or another solid material. Most of all, following oil application in the plant or afterwards on site, a 21 day minimum period must be respected before washing the floor.

Easy maintenance

After the 3 week period, regular care of the floor may begin. On a well swept floor, use as directed, an appropriate product especially designed for cleaning oiled floors. Use a damp mop and do not saturate the floor with water. For stubborn stains like heel marks etc., you may use a bit of lighter fluid or turpentine on a clean cloth without using excessive force. Do not use commercial waxes and detergents as they can dull the finish.

Warning!!

Before disposing of oil soaked cloths, place them in water to prevent spontaneous combustion. This is a very important step.

AWPF highly recommends the following products :

- **Solo Monochrome Oil** : An innovative range of products based on natural oils and resins, designed for wood protection, particularly suitable for oiled wood floors.
- **Solia** : Wood soap on the base of coconut and soya oil derivatives, especially developed for the maintenance of oiled wood floors.
- **Solia Plus** : Mixture of soaps and vegetable waxes in water, over 90% biodegradable. It is a detergent and protective agent especially developed for the normal cleaning and maintenance of oiled wood floors.
- **Génério** : Ready to use repairing oil based on natural oils and resins
- **Extrême** : Highly concentrated detergent for the cleaning of very soiled, oiled wood floors.

Thank you for choosing a American Wide Plank Flooring !

REPAIRS IN RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

Choose one of the following techniques to repair floors in residential areas, depending on the wear and state of the floor: (Ideally, apply a coat of finishing oil before the colour of the floor changes).

Prepping the area in need of a coat of oil (Optional)

Lightly sand the areas to be restored with a 150-grit sandpaper. A block sander will make it easier. This step is optional; lightly sanding will, however, help the oil soak into the wood in high-traffic areas by breaking up the floor polish. After lightly sanding, wash the areas to be restored with a concentrated cleaner. (Follow the instructions on the container).

1. Restoring the finish when the stain is still intact

Apply a thin and uniform coat of transparent oil with an applicator or cloth. Remove excess surface oil with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the treated surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 24 hours. Wait 14 days before washing the floor.

2. Restoring the finish and the stain (Slightly paler stain on the entire surface)

Apply a thin and even coat of the following mixture: 20% coloured oil and 80% transparent oil. Use an applicator or cloth to apply it. Remove excess surface oil with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 24 hours. After applying the mixture (20% coloured oil and 80% transparent oil), wait 14 days before washing the floor.

3. Restoring the finish and the stain

(Very pale stain in high-traffic areas)

Apply a thin coat of oil of the same colour as the floor where the stain is palest while trying to match the stain to the rest of the floor. Wipe the floor with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. Let it dry for 24 hours. Then, apply a thin and even coat of the following mixture: 20% coloured oil and 80% transparent oil, to the entire floor.

It can be applied with an applicator or a cloth. Remove excess surface oil with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the treated surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 24 hours. After applying the mixture (20% coloured oil and 80% transparent oil), wait 14 days before washing the floor.

REPAIRS IN COMMERCIAL SETTINGS

A. The Apply-and-Dry Method

Choose one of the following techniques to repair floors depending on the wear and/or state of the floor: (Ideally, apply a coat of commercial-grade renovating oil before the colour of the floor changes).

Prepping the area in need of a coat of oil

(Optional)

Lightly sand the areas to be restored with a 150-grit sandpaper. A block sander will make it easier. This step is optional; lightly sanding will, however, help the oil soak into the wood in high-traffic areas by breaking up the floor polish. After lightly sanding, wash the areas to be restored with a concentrated cleaner. (Follow the instructions on the bottle).

1. Restoring the finish when the stain is still intact

Apply a thin and uniform coat of natural-coloured commercial-grade renovating oil with an applicator or cloth. Remove excess natural-coloured commercial-grade renovating oil off of the surface with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 10 to 12 hours.

2. Restoring the finish and the stain

(Slightly paler stain on the entire surface)

Apply a thin coat of commercial-grade renovating oil of the same colour as the floor only where the stain is palest while trying to match the stain to the rest of the floor. Wipe off the excess commercial-grade renovating oil with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. Then, apply a thin and even coat of coloured commercial-grade renovating oil to the entire surface of the floor. It can be applied with an applicator or a cloth. Remove excess coloured commercial-grade renovating oil with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. Treat the entire floor to ensure the stain and finish are uniform throughout. It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 10 to 12 hours.

3. Restoring the finish and the stain

(Very pale stain in high-traffic areas)

Apply a thin coat of commercial-grade renovating oil of the same colour as the floor only where the stain is palest while trying to match the stain to the rest of the floor. Wipe off the excess commercial-grade renovating oil with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. Then, apply a thin and even coat of coloured commercial-grade renovating oil to the entire surface of the floor. It can be applied with an applicator or a cloth. Remove excess coloured commercial-grade renovating oil with a cotton rag 5 to 15 minutes after application. Treat the entire floor to ensure the stain and finish are uniform throughout. It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 10 to 12 hours.

B. Spray-Buff Method

Choose one of the following techniques to repair floors depending on the wear and/or state of the floor: (Ideally, apply a coat of commercial-grade renovating oil before the colour of the floor changes).

Prepping the area in need of a coat of oil (Optional)

Lightly sand the areas to be restored with a 150-grit sandpaper. A block sander will make it easier. This step is optional; lightly sanding will, however, help the oil soak into the wood in high-traffic areas by breaking up the floor polish. After lightly sanding, wash the areas to be restored with a concentrated cleaner. (Follow the instructions on the bottle).

1. Restoring the finish when the stain is still intact

Using a spray bottle, spray on a thin coat of natural-coloured commercial-grade renovating oil. Polish the floor by spreading the natural-coloured commercial-grade renovating oil with a low-speed polisher (white pad). It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 10 to 12 hours.

2. Restoring the finish and the stain

(Slightly paler stain on the entire surface)

Using a spray bottle, spray a thin coat of coloured commercial-grade renovating oil. Polish the floors by spreading the coloured commercial-grade renovating oil with a low-speed polisher (white pad). It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 10 to 12 hours.

3. Restoring the finish and the stain

(Very pale stain in high-traffic areas)

Using a spray bottle, spray a thin coat of coloured commercial-grade renovating oil only where the stain is palest while trying to match the stain to the rest of the floor. Polish the floor by spreading the coloured commercial-grade renovating oil with a low-speed polisher (white pad).

Then, using a spray bottle, spray a thin coat of coloured commercial-grade renovating oil. Polish the floors with coloured commercial-grade renovating oil using a low-speed polisher (white pad). Treat the entire surface of the floor to obtain an even coat of finish and stain.

It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the treated surface is uniform. Avoid walking on the floors for 10 to 12 hours.

LONG-TERM RESTORATION

Lightly sand the areas to be restored with a 150-grit sandpaper. A block sander will make it easier. This step is optional.

Lightly sanding is recommended because it will help the oil soak into the wood in high-traffic areas by breaking up the floor polish. After lightly sanding, wash the areas to be restored with a concentrated cleaner. (Follow the instructions written on the bottle).

Apply a thin and uniform coat of oil with an applicator or cloth. It is recommended to treat small sections at a time to avoid having the oil dry too quickly. Be careful to spread the oils evenly so that the treated surface is uniform. Only walk lightly on the floor after 24 hours. Wait 21 days before washing the floor.

However, if the satin-finish oil is not applied quickly enough and the colour is damaged, repeat the preceding steps (sanding and cleaning), then apply an oil of the same colour as the floor. When restoring a floor in a commercial setting, use commercial-grade renovating oil and let dry for 10 to 12 hours.

For more information, visit our website or contact your sales rep.