

Timber Flooring Care & Maintenance

PREPARATION GUIDELINES FOR THE HOME OWNER:

- If climate controllers such as air conditioners or gas heater are to be used during the “in service period”, then these climate controllers should be in operation a minimum of four weeks prior to your timber being installed.
- The building should be constructed to at least lock-up stage, sealed with the roof on and all doors and windows in place.
- All wet trades (such as rendering, plastering, concreting or tiling) should be finished prior to the delivery of flooring.
- If the building features glassed areas that will allow direct sunlight onto the floor, ensure that measures are taken to block the sunlight such as window coverings or black plastic.
- Landscaping work should be completed prior to the installation of the timber flooring. This will minimize contaminants in the final coating.
- All preparation requirements are very specific and are directly related to the type of floor to be installed. If you are unsure, please discuss this aspect with your sales advisor or installer.

LIVING WITH TIMBER FLOORS:

- All timber, as a natural product, is prone to some movement and this is to be expected in a hand crafted timber floor. During the life of a timber floor, it will to some extent exhibit movement such as contraction / shrinkage and or expansion. Extreme climatic variation may result in excessive movement that can ultimately end in failure. Therefore the following is recommended.
 1. Your timber floor should be protected from excessive heat sources such as direct sunlight, gas or wood fires.
 2. Take steps to reduce extreme variations in climatic conditions such as installing effective window treatments, air-conditioning, humidifiers and / or dehumidifiers.
 3. If climate controllers such as air conditioners are to be used, the timber should be acclimatised to that climate controlled environment.
 4. BJ'S TIMBER FLOORING RECOMMENDS THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY IS GENERALLY MAINTAINED BETWEEN 40% - 60%. In order to achieve this, humidifiers or dehumidifiers may be required.
 5. Homes that are uninhabited for prolonged periods are more prone to extreme climatic conditions, therefore, please ensure that the above steps are taken.
- Rugs are a fine asset for any timber floor, but can slow down the oxidation process or colour maturation of the floor under the rug; it is prudent to move the rug on a regular basis to graduate the colour differential that will appear around the edge of the rug. Rugs strategically placed in high traffic areas such as entries, will reduce premature wear.
- Sunlight and UV light, both direct and indirect, may change the colour of the timber and some coatings. Window tinting and light filters may help to reduce this effect.

PREVENTITIVE MAINTENANCE TIPS:

- Clean the floor at least once a week to prevent the buildup of grit & dirt on the surface. Clean more frequently in high traffic areas or as required.
- Have mats both inside & outside external doors to trap grit & remove moisture from shoes.
- Remove spills immediately and spot clean the area using the Bona cleaner & a soft cloth.
- Consider having rugs in high traffic areas. These can add to the look of a room and also reduce localised wear on the floor. Rugs should allow the floor to breathe
- Install Timber Floor Guards on the base of furniture legs, particularly frequently moved items such as dining room chairs
- Avoid creating indentations in the floor. Common causes include stiletto heels and pet claws. Shoe heels should be kept in good repair & pet claws trimmed.
- Never drag items across your floor. Sand or grit may scratch the coating or a sharp edge may gouge the timber.

CLEANING:

- Cleaning your floor is an essential part of prolonging the life of the finish. Remove all loose dirt, grit & dust before cleaning using a Bona Microfibre Mop or similar. Lightly mist a 1 – 2m² area of the floor. Clean the floor using a Bona Microfibre Mop, completing the area before moving onto the next.
- Steam cleaners are not generally recommended by most coating manufacturers to clean floors.
- If vacuums cleaners are used to clean floors then a specific vacuum head designed for timber floors must be used.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

1. Never “wet mop” your floor. Too much water will cause your floor to swell, lifting the board edges and leaving the surface uneven.
2. Do not use household cleaners or polishes on polyurethane floors. These materials may damage the finish and make over-coating difficult in the future.

- **Other maintenance requirements are very specific and are directly related to the type of finish applied to your floor. Please discuss this aspect with your sales advisor or site supervisor. For more timber flooring information please visit the Australian Timber Flooring Association at www.atfa.com.au**