

Maintenance Guide for pre-oiled floors

Congratulations!

By opting for the quality of Solū wood flooring and the elegance of our exclusive collections, 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

- 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.

Note: *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

Solū 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 Solū 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 than 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 45%** 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)
Solid	Between 40 and 50 %	55% and more	45% and less

Engineered	<i>Between 40 and 60 %</i>		
Advice	<i>Maintain relative humidity at the recommended level throughout the year</i>	<i>Control humidity level with a dehumidifier or heating system and good ventilation.</i>	<i>Use a humidifier to minimize excessive shrinking of wood boards.</i>

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

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

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.

Floorboard replacement instructions for all Solū Collections

- 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 Solū 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 oil-based finish compatible with the original Solū 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 Solū floor?

Another great advantage of a Solū 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 Solū 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.

First coat of oil finish

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.

Let the floor dry for about 24 hours. Depending on the specie, the environment and the color, timing may vary. The floor must be absolutely dry before applying a second finishing coat. Adequate ventilation together with the right ambient temperature (20 to 25°C) will accelerate drying time.

Application of finishing top coat

Application of the transparent finishing coat is mandatory after having applied the first coat of oil finish, whether it is tinted or not.

Vigorously shake the container and pour a small amount on a clean cloth. (Follow same instructions as first coat). 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.

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 and apply the transparent finishing coat as mentioned above.

Safety is a must!

It is highly recommended to wear safety goggles during handling and application of the oil finishes. Use nitrile 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.
- Contact your authorized Solū 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 is recommended to start the work 2-3 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 (with no prints). 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.

Solū highly recommends the following products :

- **Primol and Greenol:** *An innovative range of products based on natural oils and resins, designed for wood protection, particularly suitable for oiled wood floors.*
- **Deterol:** *Wood soap on the base of coconut and soya oil derivatives, especially developed for the maintenance of oiled wood floors.*

The logo for SOLŪ Custom Hardwood. It consists of a teal rectangular box. On the left side of the box, the word "SOLŪ" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. On the right side of the box, the words "CUSTOM" and "HARDWOOD" are stacked vertically in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

- **Dergos:** 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.
- **Carsol:** Ready to use repairing oil based on natural oils and resins
- **Deter parquet:** Highly concentrated detergent for the cleaning of very soiled, oiled wood floors.

Thank you for choosing a SOLŪ wood floor!

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