

# Fuse Care / Maintenance Guide

relativespace

## Oil Finishes



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Caring for your floor will maintain its appearance for many years. It is important to know the finish used on your floor to care for it properly. In this guide you will find everything you need to know about oil finishes, from advice on caring for your floor to preventative measures and best practices for cleaning.

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# Products to Use

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The easy way to care for your floors.

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## CLEANERS:

Choosing the right floor cleaner should be an easy choice, but with so many options and so little information about what they're best used for, it can be intimidating. The most important part of any cleaner is knowing what type of floor finish it is intended to be used for. It is also important to consider the health and environmental impacts of a floor cleaner.

### WE RECOMMEND:

- Fuse Flooring has a line of cleaning products specifically designed for them, "Fuse Spa." These products are 100% natural and VOC-free. When used in our recommended cleaning schedule, the Floor Soap will clean and restore your floor, pushing back the re-oiling times.
- 100% natural cleaning products using botanically derived cleaning agents.
- Gentle soaps that can be diluted in water.

## WHAT NOT TO USE:

While most cleaners will work, there are some cleaners you want to avoid:

- Do not use corrosive or abrasive cleaners, as these may change the appearance of your finish.
- Do not use acetone based cleaners, as the amount of acetone in cleaners is not regulated.
- Do not use cleaners containing ammonia
- Avoid cleaners containing petroleum based oils
- Do not use bleach

If you are unsure of a cleaning product, contact the manufacturer and ask them if it is appropriate for use on your natural oil finished wood floor.

### RECOMMENDED MOP:

A cotton mop is the best, most versatile option. The mop head can be replaced as it ages and hairs begin to fall out. Do not use steam mops.

### RECOMMENDED BROOM:

Soft bristled brooms are the best for oil finished floors. Dust mops also work well on smooth surfaces.

### RECOMMENDED VACUUM:

Ensure your vacuum has a bare-floor setting. Do not use vacuums without this setting. Do not use steam cleaners.





# Preventative Measures

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Keeping dirt off your floor and protecting against scratches are the best thing you can do to give your floor a long life.





## 02/

### **RELATIVE HUMIDITY**

Wood reacts to climatic changes, especially temperature and humidity. Maintaining the relative humidity of your space is the single most important care you can provide your floor and is often required to keep your warranty valid. If humidity is too high your wood will swell, and if it's too low, shrink. The goal is to keep humidity at a steady level, minimizing the swings that occur between summer and winter. Different floors have different requirements. We suggest maintaining the relative humidity between 35 - 60%.

During **winter** months you should use a humidifier. Most humidifiers let you set the relative humidity percent and will maintain that humidity once set. Many homes now have central humidification where you can set the humidity and it enters through the air handling system.

During **summer** months, you may need to use a dehumidifier. They often can be set to the relative humidity you like and left to do their work.

## **MATTING**

Using entrance matting will limit the amount of particulate that ends up on your floor. Use an absorbent matting inside your front door to remove any liquids on shoes entering. If you have direct entry from outdoors, place stiff bristled matting outside to knock dirt off of shoes, in addition to absorbent indoor matts.

If you have areas of your home that you expect to get significantly more use than other areas, such as a sink in a well used kitchen, matting will prevent that area from wearing faster than the rest.

## **FURNITURE**

Any furniture coming in contact with your floor should have the appropriate protection. All furniture, such as chairs, tables and sofas, should have suitable felt pads on their feet to prevent scratching. Furniture with wheels need to have wood floor casters.

## **SPILLED LIQUIDS**

Remove spilt liquids from your floor promptly. Many liquids have staining agents in them, like red wine and mustard, and can stain your finish, or even be absorbed by the wood, if left for too long.

## **RE-OILING**

Oil is the longest lasting finish for a floor. With proper care, it can easily last many decades. However, it does require care. You should have a schedule in place for re-oiling your floor, rather than waiting for it to become a problem. The frequency of re-oiling will depend on the amount of wear your floor receives and how it is maintained. Please speak with a salesperson to help you make your schedule.

Prevention is worth a thousand sandings.





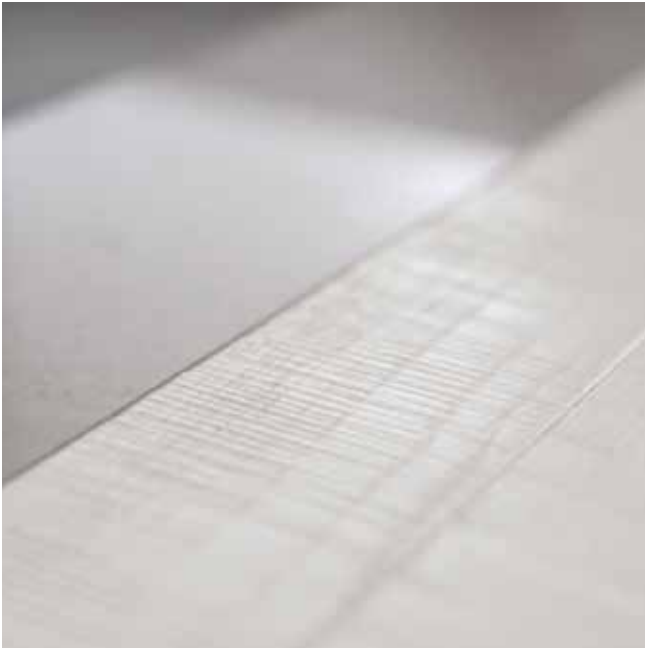




# Cleaning Schedule

## **PART 3 OF 6**

Our recommended cleaning schedule.  
The frequency of cleaning varies greatly on the amount of use your floor receives. Pets, children and parties will put extra dirt on your floor and you should increase the frequency of cleaning accordingly.



# 03/

## **DAILY**

Sweep or mop areas that have built up a lot of dirt on the floor, such as a kitchen after cooking, or an entrance after a snow fight.

## **WEEKLY**

Sweep your entire floor.

## **MONTHLY**

Vacuum your floor thoroughly and mop using the two-bucket method (explained in "Best Cleaning Practices").

## **ANNUALLY**

Inspect your floor. Look for areas with high wear or where the wood is behaving unusually and take appropriate measures to remedy it.

If you notice your floor is looking dull it may be time to re-oil.

# Best Practices

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Following these suggestions will get you the most milage out of your floor and your time spent cleaning.



**DAMP MOP**

Wring your mop out well in the bucket. The mop should be damp when it glides across your floor.

**THE DOUBLE-BUCKET METHOD**

Use two buckets of water when mopping. Using a single bucket doesn't remove dirt from the floor, it simply evens it out across the whole floor. See "Cleaning With Fuse Spa Soap" for instructions.

**WORK TOWARDS THE DIRT**

When sweeping or mopping, start furthest away from the dirty areas and work your way towards them. This will make sure you don't push dirt from dirty areas into the rest of your home.

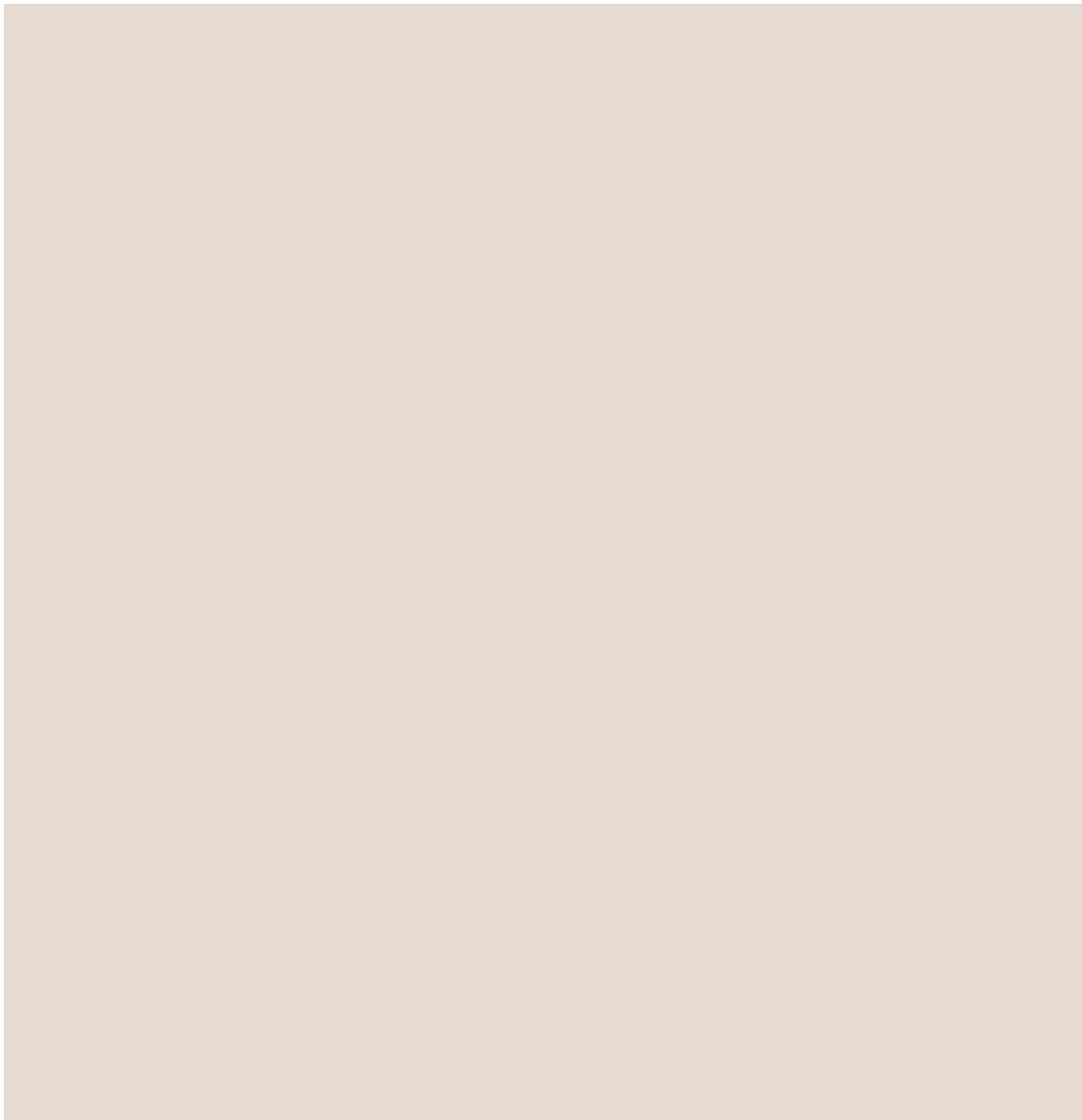
**REMOVE SPILLS**

Don't let spills sit on your floor. Not only do many liquids contain staining agents, your floor will also absorb the liquid and swell.



# Cleaning with Fuse Spa Soap

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- 01 Vacuum the floor before mopping..
- 02 Fill two buckets with lukewarm water.
- 03 In one of the buckets add floor soap at a ratio of approximately 1:50 (about 2 ounces for a normal sized bucket).
- 04 Dip the mop in the soapy water and wring. Damp mop the floor leaving little water. Rinse in the bucket without Floor Soap and wring.
- 05 Repeat step 4 until you have mopped an entire room. Replace dirty water bucket with clean water when needed.
- 06 After completing a room, rinse mop in clean water and wring hard, removing as much water as possible. Run the mop over the floor to remove water, and dirt, from the initial mopping.
- 07 Empty bucket with Floor Soap and replace with fresh water and Floor Soap. Dip mop in soapy water, wring hard, and damp mop cleaned floors. Leave a minimal amount of soapy water on floor to dry. Repeat for each room.

# Common Problems

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# 06/

## **SURFACE SCRATCHES**

Scratches are inevitable. Oil finishes tend to be matte and disguise scratches, but sometimes they still show. A smattering of scratches across a floor is normal, but a collection often is not. If you notice a lot of scratches in a single area, try to determine what is causing them to prevent further scratches from happening.

## **STAINING**

Spots may appear on your floor if it is very dry. As oil wears out of the wood it becomes more susceptible to stains, especially from other oils. Most stains will disappear when your floor is re-oiled, but it is best to ensure the wood maintains oil saturation by cleaning with Floor Soap or re-oiling.

## **INDENTATIONS**

Indentations are a result of compression, usually from a heavy object being dropped on the floor. Indentations require professional help to be fixed.



#### TRAFFIC PATTERNS

Scratches, scuffing and general 'wear and tear' will often appear in high traffic areas before the rest of the floor. A thorough cleaning can alleviate the visibility of traffic patterns, but preventative measures will slow their appearance. One of the key advantages of oil is the ability to spot treat parts of your floor. It is easy to spot treat the floors yourself, but as there are many pitfalls to applying oil, we ask you to get in touch for a training session before attempting, or seek professional help.

**LOSS OF COLOUR** - also described as 'dryness', this occurs when your floor is no longer well saturated by oil. Re-oiling will remedy the dryness. If the floor has been recently oiled, you need to increase the frequency of Floor Soap applications to match the wear and tear it is receiving.

Please note: for certain oil finished floors, transfer of colour during mopping is normal.



**DISCOLOURATION**

Sunlight exposure and oxidization will cause colour change in your floor. These agents will affect the wood, and the stain. If possible, move carpets every three to six months to minimize the appearance. There is no way to stop these processes from occurring. Thankfully, it is a finite amount of change that can occur and with proper care areas that have been affected will eventually sync up and look uniform.

**CONSTRUCTION DUST IN GRAIN**

If construction dust manages to get into the wood grain of your floor, do not mop your floor. Sweep with a bristled broom and vacuum several times to remove dirt from the grain before you mop. Mopping will turn the dust into a paste and make it difficult to remove.









# Contact Information

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For further questions, please contact us at:

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