

# RECOMMENDED CARE FOR NATURAL WOOD FLOORS

## Initial treatment after laying

### Initial care of "pre-oiled surfaces" after laying:

After laying, pre-oiled natural wood floors must be finished using oil care (natural or white oil care depending on the surface). Dust and dirt must be removed from the wooden floor before the oil treatment. The oil can be applied and processed by hand as well as by using a single-disc machine. Apply a thin layer of oil and rub in. After approx. 20 minutes, use a dry cotton cloth for polishing so that the floor shines silk-matt, but no surplus oil remains on the surface. One litre of oil is sufficient for approx. 40 sqm of floor area. After approx. 6 to 8 hours drying time, the floor can be walked on carefully. Mop with wood floor soap at the earliest four days after the final oil care treatment. Only then should carpets be laid. **Recommendation:** In the case of smoked and core-smoked oak (naturally oiled variants), we recommend mopping the floor with intensive cleaner and allow to dry for approx. 6 to 8 hours before applying oil care.

### Initial treatment of "finished surfaces" after laying:

In the case of final-oiled floors, mop using wood floor soap after laying.

**Exception:** In the case of smoked and core-smoked oak (naturally oiled variants), we recommend mopping the floor with intensive cleaner; allow to dry for approx. 6 to 8 hours. Then use a spray bottle to spray on a very thin layer of care balm, and polish by hand or use a single-disc machine (and soft pad) until the surface feels dry. One litre of care balm is sufficient for approx. 100 to 150 sqm of floor area.

### Information on "raw look" and "smoked raw look":

In the case of "raw-look surfaces", use care balm for the initial treatment after laying. We recommend using a spray bottle to spray on a very thin layer of balm, and polish by hand or use a single-disc machine (and soft pad) until the surface feels dry. One litre of care balm is sufficient for approx. 100 to 150 sqm of floor area.

**Exception:** If the "raw look character" is evident directly after laying, the initial treatment with care balm is not necessary. In this case, the wood floor soap replaces the finishing balm treatment.

## Regular mopping

Maintain the floor by vacuum cleaning, sweeping and mopping. Depending on the load, natural wood floors in the home should be wiped with a damp mop every one to three weeks on average. Wood floor soap (colourless or white) should be used each time. Do not use plain water for mopping. Regular mopping with wood floor soap ensures hygienic cleaning and considerably increases the robustness of your natural wood flooring! The wood floor soap is added to the water. Please follow the instructions for use and dosage recommendations. Use two buckets - one for the wood floor soap mixture, and the other for warm clear water for cleaning and wringing out the floor cloth. We highly recommend cotton cloth. Please do not use any micro fibre products! When mopping, do not flood the floor and avoid stagnant water. A damp wipe is sufficient.

## Regularly refreshing the surface

With everyday use and regular cleaning, the oiled surface will lose some degree of saturation over time, and become more matt and more open-pored. Regularly refreshing and/or saturating the surface is the optimum way to protect your natural wood floor against dirt.

### Freshening up with oil care:

Before applying the oil care, the floor must be cleaned using an intensive cleaner mixture in order to remove layers of grease and dirt. For information on application, please see the section "Basic cleaning of the surface area with intensive

cleaner". After the floor has dried completely (after approx. 6 to 8 hours), the oil care can be applied and processed by hand as well as by using a single-disc machine. After approx. 20 minutes, use a dry cotton cloth for polishing so that the floor shines silk-matt, but no surplus oil remains on the surface. Depending on the degree of saturation, a second coating oil may be necessary. One litre of oil care is sufficient for approx. 40 sqm of floor area. After approx. 6 to 8 hours' drying time, the floor can be walked on carefully. Mop with wood floor soap at the earliest four days after using the oil care. Only then should carpets be laid.

### Freshening up with care balm:

Floors cleaned regularly with special soap can be refreshed with care balm at a later date after normal maintenance cleaning (directly on the soaped surface). After the care balm has dried completely, use a spray bottle to spray on a very thin layer, and then polish until the surface feels dry. In the case of larger surfaces, using a single-disc machine is recommended. Furnishings can be put back in place after one to two hours. Mop with special soap at the earliest four days after using the care balm. Only then should carpets be laid. If using care balm on a regular basis, oil care is not necessary. One litre of care balm is sufficient for approx. 100 to 150 sqm of floor area.

## Basic cleaning of the surface area

To clean your natural wood floor surface thoroughly after heavy soiling or before freshening it up with oil care, please use an intensive cleaner. Use a cotton cloth or mop to apply the intensive cleaner mixture, and allow it to work for about 5 minutes. Then use a wrung-out floor cloth to remove the loosened dirt before drying. In the case of very heavy soiling, a second basic clean (wet in wet) is recommended. This can be done by means of a single-disc machine. We recommend working one area at a time in order to prevent the dirt solution from drying. After this basic clean, the parquet surface should be mopped once again with plain water. The floor has now been cleaned and degreased into the pores. After leaving to dry completely (approx. 6 to 8 hours), the surface must be refreshed using oil care. Please refer to the section "Freshening up with oil care".

## General instructions on the maintenance of oiled natural wood floors

Regular and correct care considerably increases the wear resistance of your natural wood floor! Traces of usage, such as pressure marks and scratches, largely regenerate by themselves due to the moisture absorption of the wooden floor when mopped with wood floor soap. The ingredients of the soap simultaneously clean and protect the surface.

The more regularly a natural wooden floor is maintained with soap, the easier it is to clean and the more stain-resistant it becomes as well. Impurities can be removed much more easily from a "well-looked-after" natural wooden floor, and even persistent stains wash out over time.

Especially during the heating period, regular mopping contributes considerably to the floor's long-term maintenance of value. The surface of oiled natural wood floors can be refreshed at any time using oil care or care balm. Whether this is necessary depends on the demand placed on the floor. Please observe the instructions for use and dosage recommendations. Due to the risk of spontaneous ignition of sponges and cloths saturated in oil care or care balm, wash them out immediately after use and let them dry in the open.

### Safety instructions:

Oil-soaked cloths and pads may ignite spontaneously. For this reason, soak the cloths in water immediately after use and allow to dry spread out in the open!

## Parkett-AGENTUR care products

### **Wildbrett & Woca wooden floor soap, natural or white:**

For regular mopping. Cleans and increases the wear resistance of oiled natural wooden floors. Signs of usage and stains largely regenerate by themselves through regular damp care. We highly recommend cloths made of cotton and avoiding the use of micro-fibre products.



### **Wildbrett special soap, natural or white:**

Highly concentrated special soap for regular mopping, with increased cleansing power and optimised maintenance properties. A complete care system in combination with care balm.



### **Wildbrett & Woca oil care, natural or white:**

For the initial treatment of pre-oiled natural wooden floors as well as for regular refreshing after a basic clean with intensive cleaner. Surface saturation is achieved by applying oil care. This protects natural wooden floors against soiling. Mop with wood floor soap at the earliest four days after treating with oil care.



### **Wildbrett care balm, natural or white:**

For the regular refreshing of natural wooden floors cleaned regularly with Wildbrett special soap. Apply the care balm in a very thin layer using the spray bottle, and polish to shine. Dries very quickly and replaces oil care if used regularly.



### **Wildbrett & Woca intensive cleaner:**

For a thorough clean in the event of heavy soiling and before applying oil care. The surface must be treated with oil care after being left to dry completely (approx. 6 to 8 hours).



## Maintaining the value of oiled natural wood floors

Natural wood floors are really very hard-wearing and easy to clean. In addition to regular and correct care, a "healthy" indoor climate is also important for maintaining the value of your natural wood floor. Wood is a natural product, and adjusts to its environment by shrinking or swelling. Our natural wooden floors are perfectly adapted to a room temperature of approx. 20 degrees Celsius with relative humidity between 40 and 60 per cent.

To ensure that your natural wooden floor retains a perfect shape and dimensional stability, these indoor climate recommendations should be observed as far as possible. Especially during the heating period (the cold months), we recommend using high-quality humidification units (Venta brand, for example) as well as regular checks using a hygrometer. Dropping below or exceeding these values should only occur in exceptional cases and for a short period only. Espe-

cially during the heating period, please ensure that the relative humidity does not drop below 40 per cent. The surface temperature of the wooden floor on warm-water underfloor heating should not rise above 26 degrees Celsius. Due to natural climate fluctuations, gaps may form to a small extent but this does not limit functionality during everyday use.

Solid wood floorboards are produced from one single piece. Due to a higher degree of shrinkage and swelling behaviour, solid wood floorboards naturally tend to change dimension and shape more than three-layer products, even when indoor climate recommendations are observed. This genuine natural product stands out for its lively character and underlines the naturalness of solid wood parquet. Professionally laid solid wood floorboards last for generations.

In general, we recommend ensuring adequate shade. Dark floors in particular can reach surface temperatures of over 60 degrees Celsius in strong sunlight. During the heating period, this may cause the wooden floor to overdry, especially in combination with active underfloor heating. This may result in the appearance of joints and crack formations, deformations and product damage.

Felt pads should be attached to furniture, chair and table legs. Doormats and shoe scrapers in the entrance area provide protection against soiling. Special soft rollers (in keeping with German standard DIN 68131) or protection mats are available for office chairs. In case of a running underfloor heating, carpets may also cause heat to accumulate, which may in turn lead to an overdrying of the wooden floor. For this reason, carpets should be removed during the heating period, if possible. Avoid direct contact between floor and metal in order to prevent potentially occurring chemical reactions.

Stair nosings made of three-layer parquet material are suitable only for normal private use. For flooring exposed to heavy stress or in commercial areas, we recommend using additional protection by applying separate edge profiles or solid wood stair nosings.

## Other information

For other queries regarding the laying or care of our natural wood floors, please get in touch with us. We will be pleased to advise you!

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Version 13 / status as of February 2018. Subject to modifications, typesetting and printing errors.