Maintenance of domestic timber floors

Bona products have been protecting and maintaining timber floors worldwide for over 90 years. An important part of the Bona system is the ongoing care and maintenance of the floor. The following information will help you keep your timber floor in good condition and looking great.

Prevention

Preventative measures are very important in maintaining timber floors. Install a good quality mat both inside and outside of external doors. Mats should be as large as possible and able to remove both grit and moisture.

Whenever possible remove your shoes. This will help reduce the amount of dirt brought into the property and potential impact damage from stilettos. In very heavily trafficked areas, such as entrance halls and kitchens, the use of mats should be considered to reduce surface wear. Rugs should be permeable to allow the floor to 'breathe'.

Whilst Bona finishes are designed to provide a sealed surface that is resistant to wear, scuffing and spillage, etc. no surface applied finish system can prevent physical damage to the timber or 'harden' the floor. Indentations in the wood and scratches may be caused by furniture, dropped items, dog claws, etc. and steps should be taken to reduce the possibility of this occurring.

Use felt protective feet on all furniture legs / bases to prevent damage. Similarly make sure that pet's claws are regularly trimmed to reduce the possibility of scratches and indentation.
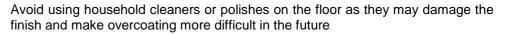
Cleaning

Clean the floor regularly using dry cleaning methods. Suitable methods include the Bona Spray mop system with the Bona Dusting pad, soft broom or vacuum with a soft brush attachment. Regular removal of surface dirt and sand will prevent the surface from being scratched.

Do not wet mop a timber floor. Excessive quantities of cleaner / water may damage the floor by causing it to swell, lifting the board edges and leaving the surface uneven. It may also lead to cleaning product residues remaining on the floor after it has been cleaned resulting in a hazy discolouration being evident.

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Avoid using household cleaners or polishes on the floor as they may damage the finish and make overcoating more difficult in the future

To remove water soluble dirt, clean using Bona Wood Floor Cleaner. First dry clean the floor to remove surface dirt, etc. Spray the surface sparingly with Wood Floor Cleaner and clean using the Bona microfibre Cleaning pad. The mop should be used along the boards wherever possible.

Rinse the Cleaning pads regularly in clean water during use and replace when dirty. It is suggested that the Cleaning Pad is rinsed or replaced after 10 – 15 m² has been cleaned.

Bona Cleaning Pads can be washed at 60°C in a washing machine after use. They can be washed at least 500 times but should not be washed with added conditioner as this affects their effectiveness.

Deep Cleaning

Over time regular cleaning may not remove all the soluble material from the floor or is simply unable to remove spills of some materials. Where a build-up of material has occurred, the floor should be cleaned using Bona Wood Floor Deep Cleaner and the Bona Deep Clean pad.

Bona Deep Cleaner products are based on a hydrogen peroxide formula which brings a greater cleaning power than Bona Wood Floor Cleaner. The oxygenated formula creates micro cleaning bubbles to loosen the dirt, deep clean and lift away the residues.

According to the CDC in the USA, hydrogen peroxide is a stable and effective disinfectant against a wide variety of microorganisms, including many bacteria and viruses, when used on hard, non-porous surfaces.

For the best results dust, etc. should be removed from the floor. Then mop the floor in the normal manner before cleaning with the Deep Cleaner system. Spray an area with Bona Deep Cleaner and let the Cleaner work for a minute. Then wipe the surface using the Bona Deep Clean pad.

Maintenance

If an area of the floor begins to look slightly dull in comparison to the remainder the use of Bona Refresher should be considered. Bona Refresher is designed to restore an even sheen to the floor whilst giving added protection to the surface against future traffic. Most importantly though, floors maintained using Bona Refresher can be refurbished in the future without having to be sanded back to bare timber. Please note that domestic staircases have a specific requirement for slip resistance and Bona Refresher should not be used on stair treads.

Thoroughly clean the floor using Bona Wood Floor Cleaner. Allow the surface to dry. N.B. It is very important that the floor is clean as any deposits of dirt, etc. will become trapped beneath the layer of Bona Refresher and will remain visible.

Apply an even application of Bona Refresher, with the boards, using the Bona Applicator pad on the Bona Mop. Detailed instructions may be found in the product datasheet.

After 2 hours the floor may be trafficked and put back into light use although the replacement of rugs, furniture etc. should be avoided for 24 hours. It is important that the whole floor is treated rather than small areas.

N.B. the sheen level may increase with repeated use of Bona Refresher on low sheen floors. Bona Refresher should not be used on Bona Traffic HD Anti Slip, Bona Traffic HD Raw or other Bona matt / extra matt finishes.

Regular maintenance of a floor will extend the time before refurbishment is required. Refurbishment of timber flooring is usually related to appearance issues from damage such as scratches or indentations rather than wear. This type of damage can be controlled using preventative measures but inevitably over time the appearance of the surface will deteriorate.

Ideally the application of an additional coat of a Bona finish will be carried out before the floor is damaged to a point where a complete refinishing process is required. To refurbish the floor usually all which is required is to thoroughly clean and prepare the surface in accordance with Bona's overcoating instructions before applying an application of the appropriate finish.

For additional information regarding floor care and floor care products please visit www.bona.com.au