

Care and Maintenance Instructions for

PRE-COATED
ENGINEERED
FLOORING

manufactured by
Australian Sustainable Hardwoods Pty Ltd
(ASH)

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE

ONLY GUARDIAN MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS ARE TO BE USED ON PRE-COATED ASH ENGINEERED FLOORING

REPLACEMENT GUARDIAN PRODUCTS CAN BE PURCHASED DIRECT FROM ASH – (03) 51 39 7001

This Care and Maintenance document has been prepared to help you get the most from your pre-coated engineered floor. Coatings are the first line of defence for the appearance and performance of your floor. All coatings will begin to show wear and tear over time. The speed at which this occurs is influenced by the combination of environmental factors and the occupants ability to follow these instructions.

Proactive Steps for Preserving Your Pre-Finished Coating

To minimise scratching of the floor, always ensure that the bottoms of movable items, like table legs, chair legs, and couches that directly touch your floor are well-protected. Affix protective pads (adhesive-backed felt type), available at your local flooring specialist store, to these items. Regular cleaning of these felt pads is essential to avoid dirt accumulation that could potentially damage your floor over time.

Consider placing doormats at all entrances to prevent sand, dirt, and other debris from being tracked in. It is important to note that natural timber needs to 'breathe', therefore, be aware that the use of rugs, mats or hall runners, can discolour the floor, even when those coverings are considered "breathable." If the timber under the floor covering discolours, it is best to remove the covering immediately. This will allow the timber to 'breathe' and it will usually return slowly back to its original colour.

Australia's sun can be very harsh, so we recommend the use of blinds, curtains, exterior blinds/awnings or, if possible, utilising external glazing with built-in UVA and UVB protection. This will help prevent fading or discolouration. Moving rugs and furniture on a semi-regular basis will help the floor to age evenly.

Routine Upkeep

Prior to using Guardian products, loose dirt and dust should first be removed by the use of an electrostatic mop, or by vacuuming (after first ensuring the head of the vacuum won't scratch your floor). A swivel-type-cleaning pad is preferred (e.g. Sabco Super Swish); normally these products are supplied with one dry electrostatic pad and one wet microfiber pad that are interchangeable; these types of cleaning products are available from most well-known hardware and building supply chain stores.

It's important to note that harsh substances such as sand, dust, and mud pose the biggest risk to floors treated with oils. These materials can get trapped under rugs and shoe soles, leading to rapid wear of the finish. Regular cleaning will prevent dirt and grit from wearing and scratching your floor and will extend the life of the finish considerably. The optimal way to combat this is through regular vacuuming of your floor, ideally daily or every other day. Ensure your vacuum cleaner is equipped with a parquet brush and rubber wheels to prevent causing streaks or scratches on the floor. If you prefer sweeping, use a broom with a soft brush. For mopping, use a slightly damp, lint-free cloth.

Tidying Up Post-Incidents

The basic guidelines for dealing with minor spills of liquid or food is to clean them up quickly using Guardian surface care spray on a soft cloth, then wipe and let the surface dry completely. For larger spills, or high traffic areas, use a damp cloth or mop with clean water and Guardian soap mix. Once cleaned, allow the floor or spot to air dry for about 20 minutes before walking on it again.

Fats such as cooking oil and greasy foods can be extremely penetrative and mark the floor permanently. Household acids such as lemon juice, vinegar, coffee and acid in products like cup noodles can also be extremely penetrative. Therefore, we strongly recommend that such spillage mishaps need to be removed and cleaned immediately using the methods noted above.

Avoid Doing the Following:

- Do not use any other care products. Other products can build up over time, leading to a slippery and scratched floor. Damaging the coating.
- Avoid using chemical cleaning agents such as ammonia, vinegar, or turpentine.
- Do not under any circumstances use any cleaners containing bleach, ammonia or caustic-based chemicals to clean the floor (e.g. Domestos, White King or other common household cleaners).
- Do not use care products that are solely designed for a lacquer finish, like polish.
- Do not use a hard brush for sweeping your floor.
- Do not use steam mops on your floor.
- Refrain from dragging heavy furniture or items which could result in significant scratches on your finish.
- Avoid using a metal dustpan for gathering dust or dirt.

Guardian Soap

For periodic cleaning (weekly, every two weeks, monthly)

Guardian Soap is a versatile cleaning agent, engineered with unique Guardian technology, specifically for surfaces treated with oils. It effectively eliminates all grease and grime, without leaving any residue behind. Guardian Soap helps maintain the natural appearance of wood.

Usage guidelines:

1. Begin by vacuuming to remove dust from the surface.
2. Add between 25 to 50 ml of Guardian Soap to 5 litres of water.
3. Thoroughly clean the surface using a mop. Do not over saturate.
4. Leave the cleaned surface to dry for approximately 20 minutes.

IMPORTANT: Avoid letting water remain on the surface!

Guardian Surface Care

For periodic cleaning (weekly, every two weeks, monthly)

Guardian Surface Care is a pre-mixed version of Guardian Soap, perfect for cleaning wooden floors, countertops, coffee tables, furniture, and other similar wooden surfaces.

Usage guidelines:

1. Apply Guardian Surface Care directly onto the surface.
2. Wipe the surface using a cloth or mop.
3. Let the surface dry completely.

Guardian Universal Maintenance Oil

For periodic maintenance of top layer (every 6 to 12 months)

Guardian Universal Maintenance Oil is a versatile care product specifically designed to rejuvenate the color of oil-treated wooden surfaces. It's ideal to apply this maintenance oil just before the previous oil application begins to fade, with the frequency of application dependent on the floor's wear and tear.

Usage guidelines:

You don't need to be a professional to use Guardian Universal Maintenance Oil on your floor.

1. Start by removing all dust and dirt from the floor.
2. Clean the surface thoroughly using Guardian Soap and water. Afterwards, rinse the floor to remove any soap remnants and let it dry.
3. For manual application, use a cloth, brush, or sponge to apply the Guardian Universal Maintenance Oil. If you're using a machine, apply the product with a polishing machine equipped with a beige pad. Work in small sections of 2 - 4 m². Within 15 minutes of application, wipe each treated area with kitchen towels or a cotton cloth. Use a white pad if wiping with a polishing machine.



4. Ensure the room has good ventilation. The surface will be dry after 6 - 8 hours. During the first week, clean only with a damp cloth! After the first week, you may use Guardian Soap.

Consumption: Approximately 250ML \approx 40m²
(may vary depending on wear).

- Wash clothing and application items thoroughly after use.
- Store in well-closed original packaging in a dry, cool and well-ventilated place away from heat sources.
- Dispose of contents/container to an appropriate treatment & disposal facility in accordance with local laws.

For more information, please refer to the relevant SDS at: ash.com.au/resources

Warning:
Flammable



Re-finishing

Sometime in the distant future, it may become evident that the floor finish is worn when some areas remain wet longer than other sections after cleaning, or when the base colour (stain) is disappearing.

Should this occur, flooring coated with LED-cured hardwax oil can be refinished. A big plus here is that our LED finishes are designed to be recoated without the need for a lot of sanding. For best results, we recommend contacting us directly, so we can give you up-to-date information. Just provide us with the original order specifications for your installed floor.

Thank you for choosing ASH Engineered Flooring for your project. If you have any further questions, contact an ASH Engineered Flooring specialist on 03 5139 7001.