

Maintenance guide for wood floors finished with lacquer

NB: Wood floors finished with oil or hardwax oil require an alternative maintenance regime, please refer to our 'Maintenance guide for oiled wood floors' or speak to our technical department.

Preventative Maintenance

Abrasive particles of dirt and grit trafficked on to a wood floor finished with lacquer can be very damaging and seriously shorten the lifespan of any treatment. Matting placed at external entrances can be highly effective at prolonging the appearance and life of the floor whilst reducing the frequency of refurbishment. It is important that matting is of a type which allows abrasive particles to drop through it rather than remain on the surface where it can then be tracked on to the sealed floor. Matting should be large enough, ideally, to allow two steps across it but, as a general recommendation, the mat should be as large as is practical. Periodically matting should be thoroughly cleaned. A dirty mat is ineffective and can act as a 'reservoir' of abrasive particles.

How to look after your floor

The following information is designed to provide a starting point for a maintenance programme and is appropriate for both commercial and domestic floors. However, all floors are unique and will require individual assessment because factors such as changes in traffic levels and bad weather, causing snow and rain being brought in underfoot, will vary.

An effective maintenance regime should consist of:

1. Dry Cleaning: Floors should be cleaned daily using dry cleaning methods, such as vacuum, scissor mop or soft broom. It is important to remove any abrasive particles of grit and dirt which may scratch the floor seal when trafficked under footwear, chair legs, and other items moved across the floor.

2. Damp Cleaning: Soluble dirt should be removed by cleaning using a spray-buff system or scrubber drier with diluted Bona Cleaner (large floors), or by using a Bona Spray Mop (small or domestic floors). When using a buffing system the machine should be fitted with a tan pad. A red pad can be used on floors which are very dirty. Coarser pads should be avoided as they may damage the floor seal. All cleaning materials should be replaced periodically to ensure effective maintenance.

3. Additional Cleaning: Wood floors in commercial areas which may often become contaminated with grease from food, sweat, or residue from other sources, may require additional cleaning to remove these materials. Cleaning using Bona Remover will remove these non-soluble materials and restore the slip resistance of the floor seal.

4. Further Protection: Traditionally floors would be treated with wax-based polish to offer additional protection to the floor seal. However once this has occurred the floor can not receive further coats of lacquer without sanding the floor back to bare wood. An alternative is Bona Freshen Up. This polyurethane maintainer should be applied, by mop or cloth, when the floor seal appears dull due to minor scratches. This should be used following regular cleaning. On a new or recently re-finished floor Bona Freshen Up would be applied when the first signs of wear become visible (i.e a dulling of the surface).

NB: On extra matt finishes eg Bona Naturale and Bona Mega Extra Matt, Freshen Up will noticeably increase the sheen.

Newly Finished Floors

A floor coated with any Bona floor finish is usually touch dry within approximately 3 hours. However it continues to cure for approximately one week. The floor may receive light foot traffic 8 hours after the final coat of finish but full heavy use should be avoided for 72 hours. Furniture may be returned to the room after 24 hours but should be fitted with protective pads. The floor should not be covered with any protective sheeting/polythene or rugs/carpets for the first week after finishing. Similarly the use of maintenance products should be avoided for this period.

Refurbishment

Periodically it will be necessary to re-finish previously lacquered floors. If the floor has been maintained using wax-based polish or similar, the floor will have to be sanded back to bare wood prior to lacquer application. If just Bona Cleaner or Bona Freshen Up has been used it is possible to apply further coats of finish without heavy sanding. The floor must be cleaned and lightly abraded using the Bona Scrad System prior to applying further coats of finish.

If information is not available regarding the previous maintenance products used on the floor, an adhesion test should be made to determine compatibility. An area should be cleaned by hand, lightly abraded, and a coat of finish applied. After 48 hours the surface should be rubbed with the edge of a milled coin - such as a ten pence piece. Adhesion is satisfactory if the lacquer remains intact.

The Life Cycle of the Floor

Bona offers a range of compatible products which, if used correctly, will lessen the disruption and expense produced by the full refurbishment of a floor. By frequently assessing the floor's condition and applying Bona Freshen Up regularly, and adding further coats of finish to the floor before wear has progressed back to bare wood, it should be possible to avoid ever having to sand the floor back to bare wood again.



Bona Cleaner

A concentrated pH neutral detergent designed specifically for sealed wooden floors. N.B. It is important that the quantity of liquid applied to the floor is kept to a minimum.

Application: By mop/cloth or scrubber-drier/spray-buff system

Dilution: Normal cleaning - 50ml/10L Very dirty floors - 100ml/10L



Bona Remover

A concentrated polish stripper designed to remove Bona Polish. It can also be used to treat floors which have become slippery and for the removal of black heel marks. N.B. Wooden floors which have been previously treated with polish must be sanded back to bare wood prior to overcoating.

Application: Apply the diluted product evenly across the floor using mop or spray bottle. After five minutes buff the floor with a red pad. Remove any remnants with a scrubber-drier, mop or similar. Finally clean the surface with water. Use a minimal quantity of liquid when treating wooden floors. It is important that all traces of Polish Remover are removed as any residue may affect the newly applied coat of polish. Once the floor is dry Bona Polish may be applied. To remove black heel marks apply the diluted product to the affected area, leave for five minutes then wipe the surface with a clean, lint-free cloth.

Dilution: For removing polish: 1L/5L water For removing heel marks: 1 capful/100mls water



Bona Freshen Up

A ready to use waterborne polyurethane maintenance coating. It will revive a scratched and dull surface in addition to providing continued protection against wear. Meets DIN 18 032 for slip resistance. Freshen Up is for use on lacquered wooden floors only. Do not use over any floor that has been waxed or oiled. Wax and oil residues will prevent the proper adhesion of Freshen Up to the floor. Always test floors for appearance and adhesion in an inconspicuous area before use.

Application: Clean floor thoroughly with Bona Cleaner and apply Freshen Up directly to floor in a 3 - 4cm wide wavy line. Work the Freshen Up in to the floor using a Bona Applicator Pad slightly dampened with water. Even out along the grain of the wood and allow the floor to dry for a minimum of two hours before use. A second coat may be required. Avoid heavy traffic and replacing rugs or heavy furniture for 24 hours.

Coverage Rate: 30–50M²/L

NB: Bona Freshen Up will noticeably increase the sheen level when used on floors treated with extra matt finishes.

Bona Deep Clean System

The Bona Power Scrubber and Deep Clean Solution are designed to remove the toughest dirt and grime from wooden floors. The two counter-rotating brushes are specially designed for use on wooden floors and are highly effective even on rough or brushed surfaces and boards with bevelled edges.



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