

European Hardened Timber Care and Maintenance

Regular Cleaning

Depending on the amount of dirt and foot traffic, we recommend cleaning on a frequent, regular schedule. Regular cleaning should not use water and may include any combination of the following:

- › Sweeping the floor with a soft broom.
- › Dry mopping using a non-abrasive microfibre mop.
- › Vacuuming using suction (without beater bars or brushes).

Regular cleaning helps to remove abrasive particles and to discourage build-up of dirt – making it more beneficial to the long term condition of the floor and more cost effective than occasional deep cleaning.

Deep Cleaning

When deep cleaning is required, European Hardened Timber can be damp mopped using a clean Bona microfibre mop (or similar) and Bona Wood Floor Cleaner diluted according to instructions on the bottle. It is best to use a thoroughly-drained damp mop, as using excess water and/or cleaner can cause streaking and/or soap residue build up. If soap residue build-up is still a concern, intermittent damp mopping using straight water can help prevent this.

Vacuuming and sweeping as described in the Regular Cleaning section can be helpful for removing dust and dirt prior to damp mopping.

Do NOT steam clean or steam mop your floor, as this may void your warranty.

Spot Protection and Removal

While your European Hardened Timber flooring comes with the peace of mind of added moisture protection, it is best to clean up accidents, spills and pet urine promptly.

For intensive cleaning of very dirty floors, use the Bona Wood Floor Cleaner at a higher mix ratio (maximum of 1:1). Clean the floor thoroughly, then clean again with just water to remove any remnants of dirt or cleaner.

Stains from foods or liquids may be treated with a pH-neutral household cleaner*. Harsher stains can be removed using methylated spirits mixed with water at a mixing ratio 1:1 or used neat.

Spots and stains from substances such as tar, fat, ink, lipstick, and shoe polish can be removed using a very small amount (approx. 0.2mL) of white spirits*.

For chewing gum, put a sealed plastic bag of ice on the substance for 15 – 20 mins and then scrape it off with a plastic scraper (do not use a metal object, as this may scratch the surface of your floor).

For wax, allow it to harden and then remove the bulk of it carefully. Any remaining wax residue can be removed with WD-40 applied to a cleaning cloth. Use Bona Wood Floor Cleaner to remove the WD-40.

*All chemicals or cleaners should be tested in an inconspicuous location to see if they may be suitable. Most domestic agents will not harm the floor, however you must follow Belgotex's guidelines and ensure all chemicals and cleaners have been thoroughly cleaned away after to avoid damaging your floor or causing discolouration. Avoid strong stain removers or abrasive products, as they may affect the finish of the floor. Do not use cleaning agents containing ammonia, citrus or eucalyptus.

Preventive Measures and Tips On Care

The use of doormats at all entrance points is highly recommended to reduce abrasive particles being tracked inside from shoes. The use of felt pads under furniture legs is also highly recommended to prevent scratching and indentations. Never drag or roll furniture or appliances without floor protection.

Regular cleaning and the timely removal of abrasive dirt and stains greatly reduces the amount of cleaning required and prolongs the appearance and life of your European Hardened Timber floor. Do not allow water or liquid to stand on the joints for longer than 24 hours.

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All wood floors will naturally change colour and darken when exposed to UV light. If part of your floor is covered by rugs, carpet or furniture, you should occasionally move these coverings to promote uniform darkening of the floor. Lighter patches under coverings are not product flaws but inherent characteristics of wood. These lighter areas will darken with time after the covering is removed, leading to a more consistent colour across the floor. To protect your flooring from the damaging effects of UV light, it's highly recommended to apply UV filters, coatings, or treatments to all windows and glass surfaces in your home. This not only dramatically reduces the amount of UV radiation that penetrates your interiors, but also helps prevent fading, discolouration, and wear on flooring materials, fabrics, and other décor items.

Room Climate

In general, a timber-friendly climate-controlled environment should always be maintained. Wood is a naturally hygroscopic material, meaning that it absorbs and releases moisture as it adapts to the environment of the room. A timber-friendly environment is generally considered to be between 18 – 24°C in temperature, and 40 – 60% relative humidity (RH). In some regions of New Zealand, it may be necessary to employ a dehumidifier for damper conditions or a humidifier for drier conditions.

Avoid appliances or conditions that could lead to hot spots that exceed heating the floor surface over 27°C. Always refer to specific manufacturer's installation instructions for recommended climatic conditions.

Key Points To Note

1. Regular light maintenance is more cost effective than periodic heavy maintenance and more beneficial to the European Hardened Timber flooring.
2. Regularly soft sweep, microfibre mop, or dry vacuum the floor.
3. Always use clean equipment – dirty equipment only redistributes the dirt.
4. Only clean your Bona microfibre mop (or similar) in clean water, do not clean with any detergents or fabric softeners. Note: Fabric softeners can contaminate and clog microfibre mops, making foot and paw prints more visible on your floors. To prevent this, avoid using fabric softener when washing your mops.
5. Do not mix cleaning products from different manufacturers – they may not be compatible.
6. Always clean up any spillage immediately.
7. Always remove excess water.
8. Rubber mats or rubber products should not come into contact with your hardened timber floor for extended periods of time. Rubber mats, in particular, can potentially permanently discolour surface of European Hardened Timber flooring.
9. Never deviate from the manufacturer's recommended dilution rates.
10. Do not use Beater brush heads when vacuuming, as they can be abrasive & scratch the surface of your floor.
11. Some cleaning products contain citrus or eucalyptus oil, these should never be used as they left behind a residue that can make the floor look dirty. With prolonged use these residues accumulate.
12. Ammonia or ammonia-based cleaners should not be used to clean hardened timber flooring.
13. Never use abrasive pads or cleaners.

Hardened Timber Maintenance Guide

To rejuvenate your European Hardened Timber floor, we advise using Bona Wood Floor Refresher, prior to this, the floor surface must be thoroughly cleaned in line with Bona's guidelines. For light scratches and dulling, Bona Wood Floor Refresher may be used. Deeper scratches, indentations or gouges may be filled using speciality wood waxes.

The publication of these guidelines does not impact upon the ruling standards of the Code of Practice. These recommendations should be considered supplementary to supporting literature. If any points raised within this document need clarification, please contact your Belgotex sales representative or call us on 0800 377 753.