
Step-By-Step Guide to Maintenance of Your Russwood Oak Floor

A beautifully finished Russwood floor is a valuable addition to any commercial or residential project, providing an elegant and timeless look which is easy to maintain and will last a lifetime.

To ensure that you get the best out of your floor, it is important that it is correctly maintained. The level of maintenance required will be dependent on the level of floor usage, but the suggested routine should provide general guidelines.

PRODUCTS REQUIRED

For all Russwood floors which have been finished with Osmo Polyx Oil® we recommend use of selected products to maintain the quality of the hardwax oil finish. When ordering your floor we recommend that you also purchase the following items;

Osmo Opti set, which consists of:

1. Telescopic handle
2. Dust mop
3. Micro mop
4. Active fibre cloth



Osmo Wash & Care



Osmo Liquid Wax Cleaner



MAINTENANCE ROUTINE

The following maintenance routine is recommended, with the required frequency being dependent on the level of traffic on your floor;

Step 1 – Remove dust / loose dirt

On a regular basis the floor should be swept or vacuumed. When vacuuming, the standard floorhead should be used, with the brushes protruding to ensure that the floor is not scratched. If the vacuum cleaner does not have a brush on the floorhead then floor brush attachments can usually be purchased separately.

An alternative to vacuuming, which may be quicker and easier for small areas of flooring, or for daily use, is to use the Osmo telescopic handle with dust mop attachment. This will pick up dust from the floor but, if there is a significant amount of dirt (e.g. grass, pet hair or sand), then a vacuum will be more effective.

Step 2 – Wash floor with protective solution

Further to vacuuming / removing dust the floor should be damp-mopped using Osmo Wash & Care with the Osmo telescopic handle and micro mop. This will clean and refresh the floor, but does not form a film or leave residue on the surface, and therefore can be used as often as necessary.

Osmo Wash & Care is a concentrate and should be diluted with warm water (1 capful per litre of water). Once wet, the micro mop should be squeezed out to remove excess water, and the floor then damp mopped to avoid penetration of water into the joints of the floor boards.

If there is excess moisture on the floor once it has been mopped then this should be removed with the Osmo telescopic handle and a dry cloth.

Step 3 – Removal of stains

In order to remove stains (e.g. marker pen) the Osmo Wash & Care concentrate can be applied undiluted with a cloth. Once the stain has been rubbed away, the concentrate should be wiped off with a clean cloth in order to ensure that no residue remains.

An alternative for removal of tough stains (e.g. shoe polish, fat, ink) is the Osmo Liquid Wax Cleaner, which should be applied to the floor either with a cloth or, for heavier stains, with a Scotch pad or Osmo polishing pad. The floor should be rubbed gently until the stain has been removed.

Step 4 – Occasional refresh / intensive clean

Heavy traffic areas such as the hallway or kitchen may require more maintenance than lower traffic areas such as living rooms or bedrooms. If any particular area looks to be quite scuffed or dull then it is recommended that the Osmo Liquid Wax Cleaner is applied using the Osmo telescopic handle and active fibre cloth. Similar to other products in this range, the wax cleaner protects the floor without forming a film or residue.

Only a small quantity of the wax cleaner is required (2 teaspoons per 1m² or 1 litre tin per 100m²). It can be poured onto the floor and should then be applied thinly, using the active fibre cloth to gently rub it in.

After use of Osmo Liquid Wax Cleaner the floor should be left to dry for approximately half an hour, in order to avoid scuffing it.

Step 5 – Surface protection and renewal

To retain the original surface properties of the floor, worn areas will require to be renewed every few years, depending on usage. In order to do this, steps 1, 2 and 3 above should first be followed. If there are scuff marks and / or scratches on the floor, a light sand may then be required.

Please note that it is possible to sand a small area only or, if required, the whole surface can be sanded back. Once sanded, please ensure that the floor is dry and dust-free.

A very thin coat of Osmo Polyx-Oil® (in a shade to match previous application) should then be applied with either a stiff natural bristle brush, or an Osmo floor brush for larger areas. If the area to be treated is very large then a machine application is possible, but this should only be undertaken by those experienced in this method of application (otherwise, the coverage around the edges of the floor may be inconsistent).

The floor should be left to dry for approximately eight hours, then a second coat (of either clear satin or clear satin matt this time) should be applied, which should also be left to dry for eight hours.

The key to a flawless floor when applying the Osmo Polyx Oil® is to ensure that it is applied as thinly as possible. If too much oil is applied then the surface will be tacky (if this happens, windows and doors should be opened to aid ventilation and the floor will dry after a period of time).

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

If you are maintaining a large or commercial area of flooring which experiences heavy traffic, the recommended maintenance process is the same as outlined in the maintenance routine. However, to save time you may also wish to purchase an electric buffing machine for application of Osmo Liquid Wax Cleaner (to replace the manual method outlined in step 4). This will refresh the floor and rid it of any scuff marks or small scratches.

The Osmo Floorxcenter machine is recommended and is available from Russwood, or you can purchase alternative brands of low speed disc machines (with RPM < 500) from your local DIY store.

GENERAL TIPS

- ☞ Ensure that all spillages are wiped up immediately and never allow water, moisture spills or cleaning products to remain on the floor for any length of time.
- ☞ Place durable mats at all building entrance ways, in order to trap as much dirt, grit and moisture as possible before it is trodden into the floor.
- ☞ Affix felt protective pads to the bottom of all furniture (e.g. chair and table legs) so that they do not scrape the floor when they are moved.
- ☞ In office environments, plastic mats should be used under desks and chairs, again to protect the floor from chair coasters.
- ☞ To move furniture, lift it rather than dragging it to avoid scratches.
- ☞ Try to avoid walking on your floor in high heeled shoes – although oak is hard and durable it is still a natural product and thus can be damaged.

By spending just a few minutes each week on the upkeep of your real wood floor you will ensure that it maintains its beauty and vibrancy for a lifetime.

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