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## Care & Maintenance Guide for Brushed & Oiled Wood Flooring

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### 1. Introduction

There's something effortlessly calm about brushed and oiled wood flooring. It has that soft, natural look that doesn't feel overly polished, yet still brings warmth and character into a space.

If you've chosen this finish, it's likely because you love that slightly textured feel and the way it highlights the grain of the wood.

The good news is, looking after it doesn't need to be complicated. With a few simple habits, your floor will continue to look beautiful for years to come.

## 2. Understanding Brushed & Oiled Flooring

Before diving into cleaning, it helps to understand what makes this finish a little different.

The **brushed surface** gently removes the softer grain, leaving behind a subtle texture. This not only enhances the look of the wood but also helps disguise everyday marks.

The **oil finish** soaks into the wood rather than sitting on top. This gives a more natural appearance, but it does mean the surface needs occasional maintenance to keep it protected.

## 3. Everyday Care

Day-to-day care is simple and quick.

A soft brush or vacuum is usually all you need to remove dust and dirt. Keeping on top of this prevents small particles from building up and dulling the surface over time.

It's one of those little routines that makes a noticeable difference without much effort.

## 4. Weekly Cleaning Routine

For a deeper clean, a weekly routine works well.

Use a **slightly damp mop**, making sure it's not too wet. Excess water is one of the main things to avoid with any wood flooring.

Work in small sections and allow the floor to dry naturally. You'll find it brings back that fresh, clean feel without affecting the finish.

## 5. Choosing the Right Cleaning Products

Using the right products helps maintain the natural look of your floor.

**Best options include:**

- pH-neutral wood floor cleaners
- Products designed specifically for oiled finishes
- Microfibre mops or soft cloths

These will clean effectively without stripping away the protective oil.

## **6. What to Avoid**

It's just as important to know what not to use.

Avoid:

- Steam cleaners
- Harsh chemical cleaners
- Bleach or ammonia-based products
- Excess water

These can damage the finish and dry out the wood over time.

## **7. Dealing with Spills & Stains**

Spills happen — especially in busy homes.

The key is to deal with them quickly.

Blot (rather than wipe) the spill with a soft cloth to prevent it spreading. For tougher marks, use a gentle wood cleaner suitable for oiled floors.

One of the advantages of this finish is that small areas can often be treated without affecting the rest of the floor.

## **8. Protecting Your Floor from Everyday Wear**

A few small adjustments can go a long way in keeping your flooring looking its best.

- Use felt pads under furniture
- Add rugs in busy areas like hallways
- Avoid dragging heavy items across the floor
- Keep pet nails trimmed

These simple habits help prevent unnecessary wear.

## **9. Seasonal Changes & Natural Movement**

Wood naturally reacts to its surroundings, and you may notice slight changes throughout the year.

In warmer months, the boards may expand slightly, while in cooler conditions they may contract.

This is completely normal and part of having a natural wood floor.

Keeping your home at a steady temperature and humidity level helps minimise these changes.

## **10. Refreshing the Oil Finish**

Over time, you may notice the floor looking a little drier, particularly in high traffic areas.

This is simply a sign that it needs refreshing.

Applying a maintenance oil will:

- Restore the natural appearance
- Enhance the grain
- Provide continued protection

This is usually needed every 6–12 months in busier spaces, and less often in quieter rooms.

## **11. Deep Cleaning & Long-Term Care**

Every now and then, a deeper clean can really revive your flooring.

This involves:

- Using a specialist cleaner to remove built-up dirt
- Applying a fresh layer of oil

It's a simple process that can make the floor look almost new again, without the need for sanding in most cases.

## **12. High Traffic Areas**

Areas like hallways and kitchens naturally see more use.

You might notice these spaces looking slightly more worn over time, but this is easy to manage.

A quick refresh with maintenance oil in these areas can bring them back beautifully.

## 13. Living with Pets & Children

Real homes come with real life, and your flooring should be able to handle that.

Brushed and oiled finishes are quite forgiving. Small marks and scratches often blend into the texture, rather than standing out.

It's part of what makes this finish feel so relaxed and liveable.

## 14. Underfloor Heating Considerations

If your flooring is used with underfloor heating, a gentle approach is best.

Avoid sudden temperature changes and increase heat gradually.

This helps prevent the wood from drying out too quickly and keeps everything stable.

## 15. Common Mistakes to Avoid

A few simple things to keep in mind:

- Using too much water when cleaning
- Choosing the wrong cleaning products
- Skipping regular maintenance
- Ignoring when the floor needs re-oiling

Keeping on top of these will make long-term care much easier.

## 16. Troubleshooting

### **Floor looking dull**

It may just need a fresh coat of maintenance oil.

### **Light scratches**

Often improved with a gentle re-oil in that area.

### **Stains**

Treat locally and reapply oil if needed.

## 17. Final Thoughts

Brushed and oiled wood flooring is all about natural beauty and character.

It's not meant to look overly polished, and that's exactly where its charm lies.

With a little regular care and the occasional refresh, it will continue to age beautifully, developing even more depth and warmth over time.

It's a finish that truly feels like it belongs in a lived-in home.

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