

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

### Index

1. Understanding Oiled & Distressed Flooring
2. Daily Cleaning
3. Weekly Maintenance
4. Looking After the Oiled Finish
5. Protecting the Surface
6. Dealing with Spillages
7. Underfloor Heating Considerations
8. Long-Term Maintenance
9. What to Avoid
10. Troubleshooting Common Issues
11. Final Care Tips

## 1. Understanding Oiled & Distressed Flooring

Oiled and distressed wood flooring is designed to have a more natural, rustic, and lived-in appearance. The distressed surface adds texture and character, while the oil finish enhances the grain and gives the wood a softer, more authentic feel underfoot.

Because the surface is intentionally textured and aged in appearance, this type of flooring:

- disguises minor scratches and dents more effectively
- develops character naturally over time
- offers a more relaxed and traditional look

Unlike lacquered flooring, oil penetrates into the wood rather than sitting fully on the surface. This gives the floor a more natural finish but also means it requires slightly more ongoing maintenance.

## 2. Daily Cleaning

Regular cleaning helps prevent dust and grit from building up within the textured surface.

Recommended cleaning routine:

- Sweep using a soft-bristle brush
- Vacuum using a wood-floor setting
- Pay extra attention to textured areas and board joints

Frequent light cleaning is better than occasional heavy cleaning, as grit can gradually wear the surface over time.

## 3. Weekly Maintenance

Oiled and distressed flooring should only ever be cleaned using a lightly damp mop.

Important:

- Use minimal water
- Ensure the mop is well wrung out
- Never soak the floor

Excess moisture can damage engineered wood flooring and may cause swelling, movement, or staining.

Only use cleaning products specifically designed for oiled wood flooring.

## 4. Looking After the Oiled Finish

One of the main benefits of oiled flooring is that it can often be maintained and repaired more easily than lacquered flooring.

To maintain the finish:

- Reapply maintenance oil periodically
- Clean spillages promptly
- Avoid harsh cleaning chemicals
- Follow the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations

High-traffic areas may require more regular maintenance depending on use.

## **Signs the Floor May Need Re-Oiling**

Over time, the oil protection may gradually wear down.

Common signs include:

- Surface looking dry or faded
- Water no longer lightly beads on the surface
- Areas appearing dull compared to the surrounding floor

Maintenance oil can help restore protection and revive the natural appearance of the wood.

## **5. Protecting the Surface**

Although distressed flooring naturally disguises many everyday marks, preventative care is still important.

We recommend:

- Felt pads under furniture legs
- Door mats at entrances
- Lifting furniture instead of dragging it
- Keeping pet nails trimmed

The textured surface helps blend in light wear and small scratches more naturally than smooth flooring.

## **6. Dealing with Spillages**

Oiled flooring is not fully sealed or waterproof, so spillages should always be cleaned promptly.

If liquid is left sitting:

- moisture can penetrate the surface
- staining may occur
- textured areas may absorb liquid more easily

This is especially important for:

- wine
- coffee
- oils
- pet accidents

Always dry the area thoroughly after cleaning.

## 7. Underfloor Heating Considerations

Oiled engineered flooring is suitable for use with **water-based underfloor heating systems** when installed correctly.

To protect the floor:

- Keep surface temperatures below 27°C
- Increase temperatures gradually
- Avoid sudden temperature changes

Stable room conditions help minimise natural wood movement.

## 8. Long-Term Maintenance

One of the advantages of distressed and oiled flooring is that natural ageing often enhances the character of the floor rather than detracting from it.

Over time:

- subtle wear blends into the distressed texture
- the floor develops additional patina
- small marks often become less noticeable

Localised repairs are also usually possible without refinishing the entire floor.

## 9. What to Avoid

To maintain the appearance and condition of your flooring, avoid:

- Steam mops

- Excessive water
- Harsh chemicals or bleach
- Abrasive scrubbing pads
- Dragging heavy furniture
- Leaving standing water on the floor

These can damage both the oil finish and the wood beneath.

## 10. Troubleshooting Common Issues

### Minor Scratches

Distressed surfaces naturally help disguise many light scratches and dents.

For deeper marks:

- Light sanding and re-oiling may be possible
- Always test repair products in an inconspicuous area first

### Dull Areas

High-traffic areas may become dull over time as the oil gradually wears.

Solutions:

- Clean thoroughly using suitable wood floor products
- Apply maintenance oil where required
- Avoid unsuitable cleaners that leave residue

### Gaps Between Boards

Small seasonal gaps are normal with real wood flooring and are usually caused by changes in humidity.

Maintaining stable room conditions helps minimise movement.

## 11. Final Care Tips

Oiled and distressed wood flooring is designed to embrace natural texture, variation, and ageing. Unlike perfectly smooth flooring, small marks and

signs of everyday life often blend into the character of the floor rather than standing out against it.

With regular care and sensible maintenance, distressed oiled flooring can continue to look warm, authentic, and full of personality for many years.

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