

RUSTIC BEAM — A new light-weight polyurethane beam now at fraction of the cost of real wood fits into today's Mediterranean, Cape Cod and rustic looks. Available in four-inch x six-inch width in 10, 12, 14, and 18-foot lengths, manufactured by Barclay, of New Jersey, and easy to install with contact cement.

Here's Detailed Steps On Art Of Finishing An Oak Floor

Many people still value the high beauty of an oak floor. Oak flooring may be obtained in either finished or unfinished form. If you buy the unfinished type, the final finishing may be done after the flooring has been installed.

Here are nine steps to use in finishing oak floors yourself:

WHEN TO BEGIN SURFACING
Sanding shall be done just before application of the final coat of finish to the base molding and after all other interior work has been completed.

PREPARATION
Immediately before the sanding operation is begun, the floor shall be swept clean. Use no water.

METHOD
The floor shall be covered at least three times with an electric sanding machine. A rotary disc sander may be used for the final cut, but other cuts should be made with a drum-type machine. While three traverses are

recommended, acceptable results sometimes are obtained from two. If an especially smooth surface is desired, four or five traverses are recommended, the fourth with No. 00 sandpaper, the fifth with No. 000. After the final machine cut, the floor should receive a buffing by hand with No. 000 sandpaper.

An electric edger, or hand sander, should be used for surfacing areas near walls, in corners, and in small closets. Large machines are ineffective in such places. Some spots, such as those around radiator pipes, cannot be adequately surfaced even with an edger. Hand scraping is necessary in such areas.

PROTECTING THE SURFACE

After the final sanding or buffing, the floor shall be swept clean. Windows, window sills, doors, door frames, and baseboards, as well as the floor itself, then shall be

dusted carefully with a paint-

er's tack rag.
After the final buffing, the floor shall not be walked on until after the stain, filler or first finish coat has been applied and is dry.

FINAL SANDING AND FIRST FINISH COAT

The first coat of stain, filler or other finish shall be applied the same day the final sanding and buffing are completed.

If there is a longer interval between the two operations, the grain of the wood will rise perceptibly, causing a rough surface.

STAIN

Stain, if used, shall be applied before filler or other finish. It shall be an oil stain unless otherwise specified in directions for the finish to be employed.

Before application, samples of stain shall be applied to an inconspicuous area or on pieces of scrap flooring.

Stain shall be put on evenly and excess stain wiped off with a soft cloth before it sets.

While stain is used extensively to achieve color effects, pigmented filler has been found more satisfactory. This is especially true of light, medium or dark shades of the natural oak color.

Even when an unconventional floor color such as green is recommended, the objection to the use of stain alone is its sensitivity to light, a characteristic which

subjects it to fading in spots exposed to bright light. Pigmented filler, on the other hand, is resistant to light.

WOOD FILLER

One coat of good paste wood filler shall be applied as directed by the manufacturer. Care shall be taken to avoid covering too large an area at once. Before the filler in each new area becomes hard, the excess shall be wiped off so that the coat of filler is uniformly even with the surface of the wood.

The prime function of filler is to fill the minute crevices in oak, which, like certain other hardwoods, has relatively large pores. Filler thus aids in imparting a mirror-smooth surface and protects the pores against infiltration of dirt.

The paste type, which generally requires thinning, is most effective. It is recommended for nearly all oak floors.

If stain has been used filler often is applied after the stain has dried thoroughly. If the floor is not to be stained and the finish is to be varnish or shellac, filler should be applied after the seal.

FINISH MATERIALS

Specifications for application of finish materials vary with

the manufacturers of the different brands.

Floor seal is being used on an increasing large scale for residential as well as heavy duty flooring. It differs from other finishes in this important respect, instead of forming a surface coating, it penetrates the wood fibers, sealing them together. In effect it becomes a part of the wood itself.

It wears only as the wood wears, does not chip or scratch and is practically immune to ordinary stains and spots.

While it does not present as shiny an appearance as other finishes, it can be waxed and polished to a pleasing satin luster.

Varnish presents a glossy appearance, is quite durable, fairly resistant to stains and spots, but will show scratches. It is difficult to patch worn spots, however, without leaving lines of demarcation between the old and the new varnish.

Urethane is recommended for heavy traffic areas and gymnasiums. It is fast drying and has an excellent gloss. Urethane provides a hard, tough, durable seal which is resistant to rubber burns, heel marks, water and acid.

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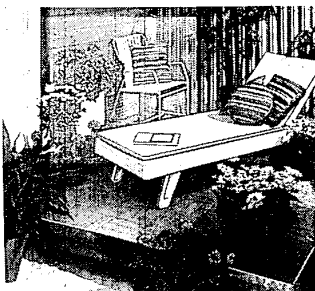
Bench Dreary? Use Planters

A long bench is valuable extra seating along any deck or patio, but can seem a monotonous stretch when empty.

One good solution is to insert short planter sections built of western cedar between benches and plant them with low growing greenery.

Continuity is not broken if the top of the planter sections are the same height as the benches. The sections are easily handled if wooden planter "trays" are set in flush with bench tops.

The trays can be lined with heavy plastic and removed for replanting or exchanging if seasonal blooms are used.



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