

Finish Preserves Beauty Of Hardwood Floors

Hardwood floors are inherently beautiful. It is the function of the finish to accentuate and preserve the beauty of the wood and makes the floor easier to maintain. (The most commonly used hardwood flooring is maple and oak).

Before any floor finish is applied to a hardwood floor, the floor must be properly sanded to produce a uniform, even and smooth surface. A point to remember is that the finest floor finish cannot make a poorly sanded floor look well.

The Maple Flooring Manufacturers Assn. standards require that:

- 1) The finish must penetrate the top surface of the wood, the finish must have penetrating qualities that become an integral part of the wood so that after application

3) The finish with its penetrating qualities must not darken the wood but must give the floor an attractive

like sheen showing the varying natural color of the wood (as desired, floors may be stained prior to application of finish, or sealer finishes may also be used).

4) The finish must reflect light so as to improve

5) The finish should be non-slippery.

7) The finish should be resistant to water.

8) The finish, after application, must not present a maintenance problem. It must insure economy in

eliminate constant resanding and complete refinishing. The floor finish manufacturers' recommendations should be rigidly adhered to when applying their floor finish products.

MORE HARDWOOD floors are ruined by poor maintenance resulting in frequent sandings than actual wearing. There are many types of finishes available for home, commercial, school or industrial installations and nearly all produce a fine appearance when the floor is

The best finish usually is the one requiring the least amount of maintenance at the lowest cost which will protect the wood, and still retain appearance factors. However, appearance does not always serve as a suitable basis for estimating the real value of the finish. Time and wear provide the best basis to judge the true value of different floor finishing materials.

There are a number of types of floor finish products on the market but for floors that are subject to heavy foot traffic, multi-purpose activities, etc., we strongly recommend the use of penetrating sealers rather than a high build or high gloss finish. A penetrating sealer finish penetrates the wood itself, sealing the pores of the wood and hardens the surface of the wood. This protects the wood from dirt and soil.

Floors finished with a penetrating seal are easily maintained by dry mopping, buffing, etc. It is also advisable to obtain complete maintenance information from the floor finish manufacturer. Penetrating sealer finishes are easily renovated without the necessity of complete sanding and refinishing.

There are products on the market today available that will give you a complete finish-renovator floor finish and maintenance system. These products are highly recommended for heavy traffic areas.

IN NORMAL surface cleaning, do not treat hardwood floors with water but just clean with a soft brush, dry mop or cloth. If badly soiled wipe with a wrung out mop or cloth, first using warm, slightly soapy water, then clear water. Wipe dry at once and polish or buff and, if desired, the floor can be waxed.

However, caution should be used in waxing hardwood flooring, or for that matter any floor surface, especially

Properly installed, finished and maintained hardwood floors are lifetime floors if properly maintained. Consult your floor finish manufacturer for their recommendations as to maintenance procedures that are compatible with their particular products.

Hardwood floors can be maintained for seven cents or less per square foot per year. For expert advice, we suggest you contact your local reputable flooring contractor or the Maple Flooring Manufacturers' Association, 124 Washington Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisc.



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