

Appalachian Flooring Ltd.



Care and Maintenance Guide

Era Design

Oil Finish Collection

Oiled flooring reflects a certain European esthetic, the appreciation of the natural beauty of wood. The matte finish highlights the character and appearance of the hardwood to best advantage. Furthermore, with regular maintenance, an Era Design oiled floor will last throughout the lifetime of the original owner, acquiring a patina and relief through time, reflecting the stories lived out on that floor.

However, in order for an Era Design Floor to realize its full potential, regular maintenance and periodic rejuvenation of the floor will be necessary.

General Tips and Tricks

Certain things should be kept in mind as you read through this guide:

- Rugs and carpets should not be replaced over areas that have been repaired or rejuvenated for 7 days afterwards.
- All procedures assume a relative humidity of 40-60% at 25C (77F) and a minimum air temperature of 20C.

Health and Safety

Gloves, goggles and all other necessary safety equipment should be worn when handling any type of chemical substance. Please follow all relevant safety guidelines in your jurisdiction. It is also important that you observe all instructions and safety considerations printed on the packaging. Your primary considerations should always be the health and safety of yourself, the people around you and your environment.

Weekly Maintenance

As with any hardwood floor, an Era Design oiled floor should be regularly swept or vacuumed in order to remove dirt, dust and grit from the surface of the floor.

Furthermore the floor should be cleaned once a week using the Era Design cleaning solution on a clean microfiber mop following this procedure.

1. Vacuum the floor using a soft bristle attachment.
2. Spot clean stains using Appalachian Multi-Surface floor cleaner on a clean cotton rag.
3. Spray using Appalachian Multi-Surface floor cleaner on a dry microfiber mop and mop floor vigorously.
4. Allow to dry.

Periodic Maintenance

Every three to six months or according to traffic, the floor should be revitalized using the Era Design revitalizing solution following this procedure.

1. Vacuum the floor using a soft bristle attachment.
2. Spot clean tough stains using Appalachian Multi-Surface floor cleaner on a clean cotton rag.
3. Spray using Appalachian Multi-Surface floor cleaner on a dry microfiber mop and mop floor vigorously.
4. Allow to dry.
5. For the following steps, work in 100 square foot sections.
6. Lightly mist the floor with the revitalizing solution.
7. Mop floor vigorously with a dry microfiber mop.
8. Allow to dry.

Spot repairs

One of the advantages of an oil finish, such as the one on the Era Design Collection, is the ability to touch up minor scratches or perform a repair of a deeper scratch or more extensive damage. For best results repairs should be done by a professional.

As a general rule, water and wood do not mix. Wood should not be immersed in water or exposed to large amounts of it. When applying color to wood, the capacity of the wood to accept color can be increased by a technique called “water-popping”. With some stain colors this will be necessary and a professional’s help should be sought to accomplish this.

Colored site-finish oil can be mixed in any proportion with clear site finish oil in order to achieve different color concentrations to match sections with different levels of wear. Always test color on a small inconspicuous section before working on a larger one.

When repairing a single deep scratch it is sometimes simpler to use wood putty to fill in the scratch, and then follow the touch up procedure rather than sand down the entire plank.

Touch-up procedure

1. Clean area with cleaning solution and wait until dry.
2. Apply a light coat of Era Design site finish oil of the appropriate color to the scratch.
3. Allow the product to react for one minute.
4. Buff off excess oil using a clean cotton cloth.
5. Allow to dry for 6 hours.
6. Do not wash the area using cleaning solution or any other liquid for 7 days after re-oiling. Vacuuming and sweeping are acceptable.

Repair procedure

1. Clean area with cleaning solution and wait until dry.
2. Mark off affected area using four layers of painters tape two rows wide.
3. Sand down affected planks using an orbital sander until marks of damage are no longer obvious. (80 grit paper suggested)
4. Perform appropriate sanding schedule, by hand, to achieve required porosity. (120 grit followed by 150 grit suggested)
5. Remove painter’s tape and vacuum all dust.
6. Apply a light coat of Era Design site finish oil of the appropriate color to the affected area.
7. Allow the product to react for 1 minute.
8. Wipe off excess oil using a clean cotton cloth to match color of surrounding planks.
9. Wait 12 hours.
10. Apply clear site finish oil to the affected area.
11. Allow the product to react until it reaches a matte finish. (generally 5-10 minutes)
12. Buff off excess oil using a clean cotton cloth.
13. Allow to dry for 6 hours.
14. Do not wash the area using cleaning solution or any other liquid for 7 days after re-oiling. Vacuuming and sweeping are acceptable.

Rejuvenation / Oil re-application

After a few years of service in a residential setting, an Era Design floor will generally start showing signs of wear in high traffic areas. It is important to rejuvenate the floor before the finish is worn through completely. If wear through occurs, re-sanding will be necessary in the affected areas as well as re-oiling.

Rejuvenate your floor by re-applying oil to it following these procedures:

1. Clean area with Era Design cleaning solution and wait until dry.
2. Abrade entire surface using an orbital buffer equipped with a green scuff pad, being careful not to break through the surface.
3. Abrade areas near walls or corners with an orbital hand sander equipped with a green pad or by hand, using a green pad, sanding in the same direction as the grain.
4. Allow dust to settle and vacuum up dust off the floor.
5. Work in sections of 100 square feet for steps 6-8.
6. Pour 25 ml of Appalachian Flooring, Era Design site finish oil on the floor.
7. Using a white pad on the buffer, lower the center of the pad on the oil and buff the oil into the floor.
8. As soon as one 100 square foot section is done, place a new white pad on the buffer and use it to remove excess oil on the surface.
9. Repeat steps 6-8 for the entirety of the floor.
10. Insure adequate ventilation and allow the oil 12 hours to cure. With excellent airflow and proper air temperature the oil can

reach a state appropriate for foot traffic in 6 hours.

11. Do not wash the floor using cleaning solution or any other liquid for 7 days after re-oiling. Vacuuming and sweeping are acceptable.

Important Considerations

Certain things must be kept in mind when dealing with an oiled flooring product and with a hardwood floor in general.

Commercial Applications

The condition of the floor should be monitored by a professional in order to schedule appropriate cleaning and maintenance, depending on traffic. Rejuvenation / Oil re-application will be done according to wear. In high-traffic areas, such as restaurant dining rooms, floors may have to be rejuvenated every 3 months to one year.

Cleaning

Using cleaners other than the specified cleaner may result in damage to your Era Design hardwood floor. Caustic cleaners, bleach, degreasers, cleaning products for bathrooms, prefinished flooring cleaners, alternate oil soaps and other products may damage or negatively affect the finish or the flooring. Furthermore only a clean microfiber mop should be used. If cleaning a large surface, the mop head should be cleaned or changed every 400-600 square feet.

Humidity

The humidity within the home should be kept within 40-60% Relative Humidity at 25C (77F).

Liquids and spills

Any liquid that comes into contact with the floor should be wiped up immediately. Standing water or other liquids can warp or damage any type of hardwood flooring.

Protection

High heels and other narrow objects such as furniture legs will dimple all hardwood floors. Felt pads should be placed under chair legs and furniture and cleaned regularly. Pet nails should be kept trimmed in order to minimize scratches. Chairs with rollers should have a protective mat placed over the flooring in the area they will be used in. Heavy objects should be lifted into place, never dragged.

Sunlight and rugs

Sunlight will provoke minor or major color changes in different wood species through a natural process called oxidation. Area rugs or carpets placed on hardwood flooring should thus be moved on a regular basis. Furthermore only natural fiber rug backers should be used such as natural non-solvent based rubber, jute, wool or chopped urethane. Other rug backers may contain plasticizers that can discolor the finish. Using rugs to protect high traffic areas and entrance points is highly recommended.

Please Note: Appalachian Flooring offers no warranty as to the results of touch up or repair procedures. Variances in gloss or appearance may be observed after these procedures are attempted. Sanding schedules are offered as an example only and will depend on site conditions and wood species.