Care & Maintenance

Re:claimed

Caring for your floor is the simplest way to protect its character and ensure it ages beautifully. With the right routine, everyday marks, minor spills and the realities of pets or accidental knocks become part of a living surface — not a problem to fear.

This guide sets out considered, practical steps to help you look after your floor with confidence, preserving its integrity, patina and presence for many years to come.

Re:

Before Fitting : Acclimatization Of Wooden Flooring

With all underfloor heating systems (UFH), before starting the installation, the floorboards need to be brought into the room where they will be installed after the 21-day initial running period and exposed to the climatic conditions. For non-UFH, solid wood boards require a minimum of 14 days of acclimatisation, and engineered platforms require a minimum of 3 days. All floorboards must have their moisture levels checked professionally before installation.

- Storing the boards for at least 3-14 days, depending on the platform.
- The boards should be laid flat at least 300mm from the nearest wall.
- There must be some battens under the bottom layers to allow air to circulate.
- All wet trades must be completed, and screeds must be dry with moisture levels below 4% and humidity below 55%. Plaster must be totally dry.
- Floor and wall tiles have been installed for at least 2 weeks. • Radiators have been bled, with any leaks rectified. • All windows and doors are fully fixed.
- All painting is completed.
- The room temperature must be at least 18°C (64.4°F). The floor surface temperature must be a minimum of 15°C (59°F). The relative humidity of the air must be between 40% and 60%. Industry Standard: The surface temperature of the screed must never exceed 27 degrees C (80.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

When flooring is ordered, a 10% allowance must be added to the actual square meters needed for cutting and grading.

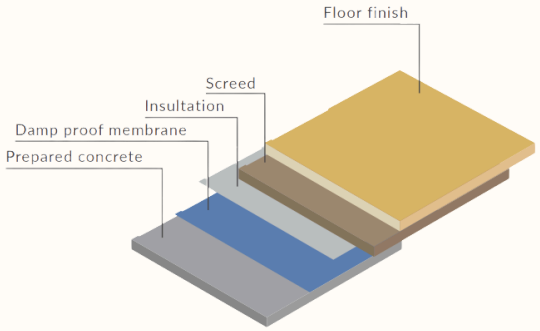
If an individual piece is doubtful regarding its grade, manufacture, or factory finish, the installer should not use it. Industry standards allow a 5% defect allowance in manufacturing.

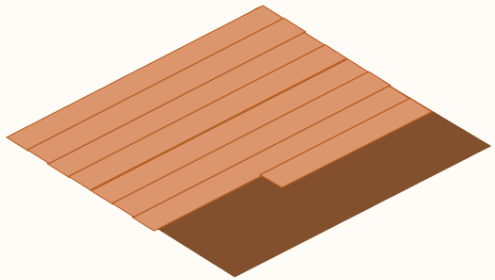
The use of appropriate products for correcting subfloor voids should be accepted as standard industry practice.

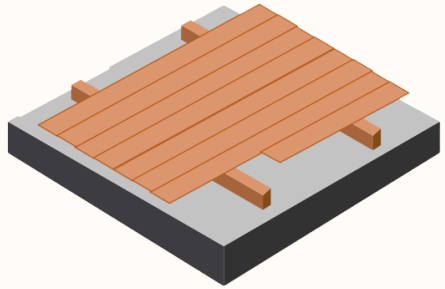
You must test the relative humidity of the environment the floor is to be laid in, and also the moisture content of any subfloor or screed must be less than 4%.

Before Fitting : Subfloors

Sub-Floors can fall into 3 main categories:







1. Concrete or Screed

Ensuring that your concrete or screed floor is dry is crucial to the process of laying a new floor. According to British Standards, the screed must be allowed to dry to a maximum relative humidity of 75% before installation takes place. A drill test, wherein a small hole is drilled into the concrete to measure the moisture level, is preferred over a surface test, which provides less accurate readings.

Cement and sand screed must have a relative humidity of less than 75% for floating engineered wood flooring & less than 65% for full-trowel applied glue-down of solid and/or engineered flooring.

2. Wooden: Floorboards, Ply or Chipboard:

When laying onto existing floorboards, chip or plywood first, remove any rotten floorboards and replace them before installing the new floor. A moisture test using a hygrometer on the wooden subfloor should yield a result within 4% of the moisture content of your hardwood flooring to prevent over-expansion or contraction.

****Existing Parquet flooring is not a suitable subfloor for hardwood flooring and should be removed before installing the new floor. ****

3. Floor Joists or Battens:

The distances between the joists or battens will determine the number of fixings that can be used, as you can only nail where there is a joist.

Solid floors must be fixed every 250mm – 300mm and 20mm engineered floors every 400mm.

Recommendations

- Check the subfloor to ensure it is clean and free of any dirt, paint, grease or glue residue that may affect adhesion.

- Make sure the subfloor is level. The easiest way to ensure the floor is level is to consult a fitter.

- Make sure the subfloor is dry. This is essential when laying new or reclaimed wood. Using a moisture meter is the most accurate method.

- When protecting your newly laid floor during the remainder of the construction process, avoid using plastic to cover it, as this can trap moisture that could damage the floor. Instead, a good quality felt covering can be laid and taped to the skirting boards to allow the floor to breathe.

- If you have a small amount of waste left after fitting the floor, keep a few spare planks on hand in case of any future damage. There will always be natural variation in tone and colour between batches. We advise keeping boards aside.

After Fitting : Aftercare & Maintenance

When you choose a floor from Re:claimed, you are beginning a relationship rather than making a simple purchase. Our floors are not mass-produced. They are largely hand-made and hand-finished, using specialist techniques and natural oils that respect the integrity of the wood.

This approach calls for a considered shift in aftercare. Our floors ask for thoughtful maintenance, not to complicate ownership, but to protect and enhance the patina already present. Aftercare is a natural continuation of the finishing process — a quiet, ongoing dialogue between material, maker and home.

Luxurious, natural wood flooring deserves a more personal touch. Much like the antique floors found in period homes across Europe, continued nourishment of the oil finish and respect for the raw material are essential. Drawing on historic practice and refined for modern living, our aftercare guidance is traditional in spirit yet contemporary in use.

With a little care and a little time, your floor will continue to improve. Colours deepen, character emerges, and the surface takes on a life of its own — living, evolving, and growing more beautiful with every passing year.

Hard Wax Oil Finished Floors

Our choice blend of slip-proof Hard Wax Oils is made from a combination of natural oils & waxes, offering exceptional durability and resistance on wood flooring, wooden kitchen worktops, staircases, mouldings and areas subjected to high traffic.

Oil penetrates the wood surface, saturating it. A practical solution that safely repels water and fixes the tone & colour pigment we use while finishing.

We may use additional primers on the surface before oil application. Additionally, we can apply extra layers of fireproofing and slip-resistant coatings upon request. Hard Wax Oil protection is suitable for residential and commercial projects, and in other cases, it is essential to clean and maintain the floors regularly with a compatible non-toxic product. Suitable aftercare brands we recommend are either Osmo, Ciranova or Woca.

Once the floor is fitted and has been cleaned, we recommend applying an additional coat of hard wax oil or maintenance oil to the floor in high-traffic areas, such as kitchens and bathrooms. This will benefit the floor by repelling water spillages from seeping between potential floorboard gaps while also adding an extra layer of protection.

All of our wood floor finishes are supplied 100% fully finished and protected; however, an additional thin coat is recommended if, after fitting, the floor finish has been marked, scratched, or damaged in any way during installation. This extra coat of oil should be applied very thin with a cloth, or a buffing machine. The coat should be touch-dry within minutes. If this final coat takes more than 5 minutes to be touch-dry, then the coat applied has been too thick. It is essential to work on a trial area first before expanding to the entire floor area.

Safety Check:

All rags that have been subjected to hard wax oils should be disposed of outside and kept away from flammable objects, as they themselves are flammable while drying.

Re:claimed

Re:installed

Re:imagined

Maintenance

Use a doormat. Doormats will stop 70% of the dirt being brought into the house.

Clean your floor with a soft brush, mop or adapted vacuum cleaner with soft brushed suction unit.

Apply soft protection under table and chair legs.

Use the given maintenance products and soaps specific to the product.

Avoid excessive use of water on wooden floors.

Remove spillage of liquids as soon as possible, as they may cause stain.

Plant pots should not be placed in direct contact with wooden floors.

Temperature Control & Humidity

Wood is a living material and responds naturally to its surroundings.

- Moisture causes timber to expand; drier conditions allow it to contract. This movement is inherent to real wood and is best managed by maintaining a stable internal environment.
- We recommend maintaining rooms at a consistent temperature of around 18–22 degrees, with a relative humidity level between 40% and 60%. Avoid sudden or extreme changes wherever possible. Hygrometers, used in conjunction with humidifiers or dehumidifiers, can help regulate conditions, while houseplants may also support healthy humidity levels — particularly during winter and in homes with underfloor heating.
- When underfloor heating is installed, temperature changes should be introduced gradually and in accordance with the system manufacturer's guidelines. With calm conditions, the floor will remain stable, expressive, and quietly beautiful over time.

Domestic Floor Traffic

Regular maintenance

The level of care your floor requires will naturally reflect how it is used. In everyday spaces, light daily cleaning with a soft mop or vacuum helps remove dust and grit, which are the main causes of surface abrasion.

We recommend cleaning with a natural floor soap every two to four weeks in regularly used rooms, and approximately every two months in lower-traffic areas, following the recommended dilution.

Long-term maintenance

After six to ten months, as the floor settles into the space, a natural patina will begin to emerge. Colours will deepen and subtle variations may develop between areas of higher and lower use. At this stage, a maintenance coat of hard wax oil is typically advised to replenish and protect the surface.

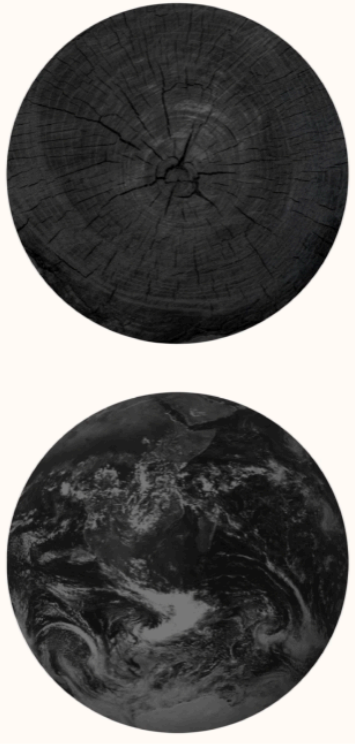
Pigmented maintenance oils can be used occasionally to revive tone if required, though restraint is key. The aim is to support the natural evolution of the floor, not to saturate it.

Following this maintenance application, further oiling is usually not required for at least a year, and often longer. High-traffic areas may be treated locally if needed, always working plank by plank. With measured care, the floor will continue to mature gracefully over time.

Trade Floor Traffic

The previously mentioned steps should be taken into consideration. However, if we were told correctly before fulfilling your order, we will have prepared your floor finish with extra coats of primer below the hard wax oil, making the finished hard wax oil coat more durable.

Cleaning with floor soap and removing dirt regularly is the best way to prolong the life of an oiled surface.



Acid Stains

Try mixing water with talc powder, and mix to a consistency similar to set yoghurt. The less water in the mix, the faster it will dry. Then add the mixture to the stain, let it dry for a few hours, and then wipe it off. You can repeat this step as many times as necessary if the stain is stubborn.

Fluid & Grease Stains

These can be removed by using fine 240-grit sandpaper or fine steel wool. Gently rub away at the surface to remove the top layer of wax and the unwanted stain. Once cleaned with floor soap, an extra coat of hard wax oil should be applied.

**For stubborn grease stains, we have found that aggressive oven cleaning products are effective as a degreaser, before using wire wool or fine sandpaper. Always test before any application.

**Please consult a professional before applying hard wax oils

**If the above step does not work, bear in mind that deep olive oil or other food oil stains will eventually dry out, but require time to do so

Scratches

Should boards become scratched or dented, minor damage can often be resolved with a discreet, localised repair. Colour may be gently reintroduced using an appropriate colouring compound, followed by a restrained application of pigmented finishing oil to restore tone and continuity.

This work should always be carried out by an experienced floor finishing contractor. In more severe cases, an individual board can be carefully removed and replaced by a skilled installer. Where possible, we recommend retaining a small number of surplus boards from the original installation to allow for this.

Prefinished oiled boards should be stored in a well-ventilated environment prior to installation. Prolonged storage in shrink wrap, particularly in warm conditions, may cause unwanted changes to surface colour and patina.

Application

First Coat: Stir well before use. Apply a thin coat with a brush, working with the grain and removing any excess immediately. Allow to dry for 4–6 hours or overnight.

Second Coat: Apply a second thin coat in the same way, ensuring good ventilation. Once fully dry, lightly buff to enhance colour and patina.

Re-application: For re-application, lightly abrade with a pad and crepe slowly. One thin coat covers approximately 20–24 square meters, depending on the type of timber.

Re-Oiling

Preparation: Ensure all surfaces are clean, dry, and free from previous finishes. Quickly sand with fine 180- or 240-grade sanding paper or a black pad on a mono-brush, removing old coats or dirt.

Ensure all areas to be coated are extremely well ventilated during the application process. Test on a small area before applying it initially. There's no need for primer. The hard wax oil is ready for immediate use and does not require thinning. Specific dense or oil substrates may only require a single application, when dry buffed to the desired level of sheen.

Cleaning

Floor Soap:

Please read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before use. Some floor soaps require dilution, while others are ready for use as supplied.

Application:

Remove dust and dirt using a damp, well-wrung cloth with hot water, working as dry as possible. Dilute four caps of floor surface soap in one litre of hot water before use.

Once the floor is free from dirt, mop the soap solution evenly across the entire surface. The wax within the soap nourishes the oils and timber, adding a further layer of protection. Apply evenly, avoiding excess liquid.