

DUCHATEAU

SIGNATURE

DUCHATEAU HARDWOOD FLOOR
MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES: OIL FINISHES

Congratulations on your purchase of a Duchateau® Hardwood Floor with an oil finish. Following these easy care instructions will help you maintain the beauty of your floor for years to come.

Duchateau® Signature Hardwood Floors are finished with penetrating oil that color and protect the floor from within rather than cover nature's beauty and merely sit on top.

An oiled floor is environmentally friendly, easy to maintain and easier to repair, however they must be maintained differently than polyurethane or aluminum-oxide finished floors. If true sustainability requires ease of repairs to last a lifetime along with environmentally safe additives, Duchateau® Signature Hardwood Floors finished with Natural Oils are a great choice for beauty, longevity and sustainability.

First and foremost, Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant is the ONLY cleaning product approved for use when cleaning a Duchateau hard-wax oiled floor. Products containing alcohol are not approved for use as alcohol – often used as a drying agent – will break down the vital waxes and oils of your Duchateau hard-wax oil floor and damage them. Please read all instructions thoroughly before starting.

IMPORTANT: Your Quality Engineered Duchateau Hardwood Floor comes fully finished from the factory with our Natural oil. As a result, it is not required to apply Duchateau Maintenance Oil immediately following installation, though regular oiling still applies. It is recommended, however, that you clean your floors after installation using only Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner and Protectant and maintain the floor with Duchateau Maintenance Oil as needed.

Daily Cleaning

For regular daily upkeep of your floor, a simple sweeping or vacuuming should be all that is required. A floor vacuum with a hardwood floor attachment or one in which the beater brush can be turned off must be used to avoid scratching or damaging the floor.

Weekly/Biweekly Cleaning

For a slightly deeper floor cleaning or to properly prepare your floor for oiling, Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant is highly recommended. This concentrate requires dilution using two buckets and two mops (sponge or short napped only). One mop and bucket will be designated for warm water and cleaner, while the second mop and bucket is used for a warm water rinse. Remember, the diluted concentrate should never pool on the surface, nor should the mop be more than damp. **EXCESS MOISTURE CAN DAMAGE THE FLOOR.**

To begin:

1. Vacuum or sweep the floor prior to cleaning.
2. Shake the cleaner bottle well.
3. Mix two (2) caps per gallon to bucket of warm (not hot) water.
4. Apply soap mixture to floor using mop in a 15' X 15' area or smaller. Do NOT soak the floor with water, as this can lead to dimensional changes or damage the floor.
5. Leave solution on the floor for a few minutes to bring dirt to the surface and dissolve any foreign residue.
6. Remove dirty soapy solution from floors using a second well-wrung mop or cloth and the clear warm water. This removes the dirt and evens out the oil in the cleaner for a streak-free finish. Be sure NOT to let the solution dry. Rinse mop thoroughly in clear warm water. Change the rinse bucket as needed - about 4 to 5 times for each bucket of cleaner solution being used.
7. Proceed to the next area, and repeat steps 4, 5, & 6.
8. Once the entire floor has been cleaned, allow the floor to dry for one hour.

Persistent Stains or Marks

If Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant does not remove individual marks or stains from the wood, Duchateau Maintenance Oil can be used as a stain remover. Mix the Duchateau Maintenance Oil and apply a very small amount to the stain and rub gently with a cloth. If the stain is not removed, gentle use of a non-abrasive scrub pad, such as a Scotch-Brite® scrub sponge, can be used in place of a cloth. Rub in the direction of the grain. Please note aggressive use of a scrub pad with white oiled floors may lift the white color from the floor.

Annual Maintenance and Conditioning

Depending on the environmental conditions and amount of traffic, annual application of Duchateau Maintenance Oil is required to moisturize and condition the floor. In dryer climates and on areas that receive a higher amount of traffic, more frequent application may be necessary to properly maintain your floor. The Duchateau Maintenance Oil benefits the floor in several ways.

Conditioning

The open, porous nature of Duchateau Hardwood Floors allows the wood to absorb and/or release moisture (depending on environmental conditions). Duchateau Maintenance Oil will help moisturize the floor.

Protection

The wax element of the Maintenance Oil works similarly to the wax coating on the paint of a car. It provides an extra layer of protection from contaminants that may have spilled on or may come in contact with the floor.

Restoration

The Oil element of the Maintenance Oil may help brighten the natural graining of the wood and may enhance the color. Every situation is unique and there is no set timeframe, but indicators such as when the floor stops beading water, shows differences in the sheen, appears to have lost its vibrancy, all indicate that the application of Maintenance Oil is required. This could be annually or several years depending on the unique conditions of the site.

As wood floors age, high traffic areas tend to wear more than lower traffic areas. Duchateau Maintenance Oil may be applied to those high traffic areas with greater frequency without having to re-coat the entire floor. However, the entire floor should be maintained annually as needed. Regular application of Maintenance Oil will provide longer-lasting protection and keep your floors looking beautiful for many years to come.

Application of Duchateau Maintenance Oil

Shake and stir the can of Duchateau Maintenance Oil well. There are wax solids that settle in the oil that need to be blended for proper application. Pour the Maintenance Oil into a squeeze bottle. This will allow more control over the amount of oil applied. Squirt a small amount of the oil on a soft cloth or applicator, spreading as thin as possible with a soft rag. Use a cotton rag that does not have loops of material that can snag on corners or in textured grain. For best results, spread along the grain, wiping off excess as you go.

While applying, there should not be any pooling of Duchateau Maintenance Oil. When applied properly, the floor should have a slight sheen but should not appear wet. Never pour from the can on the floor.

ONE CAN WILL COVER APPROXIMATELY 750 SQUARE FEET OF FLOORING WHEN PROPERLY APPLIED.

If coverage is less than this, the product is not spread thin enough. This can result in problems requiring the user to have to buff off excess product carefully by hand or with an orbital buffing machine. Spread as thin as possible and work in small areas to prevent excess product from setting on the flooring surface before it is properly spread. Keep from walking on the floor for 12 hours or more to allow wax to fully harden. If it is necessary to walk on the floors prior to drying, please put paper booties over your shoes to prevent leaving footprints in the wax. Keep furniture off of freshly oiled floors for 12 to 18 hours. Keep rugs off of freshly oiled floors for 48 hours.

For general homeowner/end-user maintenance, the Duchateau Maintenance Oil needs only be reapplied to areas that receive more traffic. With proper application, it will not alter the color of the floor and can be applied to small areas as needed or used as a spot or stain remover without needing to reapply the product to the entire floor.

White Color Maintenance - Application of Duchateau White Maintenance Oil (PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY)

Over time, Duchateau white oiled floors may require an application of Duchateau White Maintenance Oil every few years to renew the floor's white appearance. Use of Duchateau Maintenance Oil-Clear is still recommended for regular maintenance of all Duchateau floors, including white oiled floors. **WARNING:** Use of this product on any other type of Duchateau floor may cause significant discoloration or damage. Duchateau White Maintenance Oil should only be applied by an experienced finisher who is familiar with wood stains.

Available Care Products

Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant

Application: For the regular upkeep of your oiled Duchateau® wood floors, our specially formulated Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant promises you a thoroughly clean and nurtured floor, all without the hassle and headache of multiple products, all in one safe, environmentally friendly woodcare product. One bottle (33.8 fluid ounces) cleans 4,000 square feet.

Duchateau Maintenance Oil-Clear Formula

Application: To keep a lasting, hardy brilliance in the finish of your hard-wax oiled floors, periodic application of Duchateau's Maintenance Oil - Clear will rejuvenate the surface oil coat of your floors and keep them looking great and relatively impermeable to foreign contaminants. One can (33.8 fluid ounces) maintains approximately 750 square feet.