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Cork

CARE & MAINTENANCE



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Introduction

Cork care program

A carefully planned and executed maintenance program will help protect the aesthetic and functional value of your cork flooring. Such a program should be considered at the time of flooring selection and finalized before installation.

This maintenance guide has been compiled to help you plan and implement an effective Cork Care program.

Planning a Maintenance Program

Maintenance programs may be carried out by the homeowner, staff, outsourced professional cleaners or a combination. Whichever option is chosen, a person responsible should be directed to pre-inspect the Cork surface, identify its construction, evaluate the soiling and cleaning needs and proceed with the appropriate cleaning methods and procedures.

Should you choose to outsource your Cork flooring or wall treatment maintenance, Quantum is willing to assist with further direction and guidance on this. The effectiveness of any cleaning depends on careful consideration for the surface, trained personnel and the usage of correct equipment and chemicals.

Three Key Measures

- Preventative measures
- Regular maintenance
- Long term maintenance



Preventative Measures

Entrance Matting

Good quality walk-off matting and similar soiling barriers provide the first protection against tracked-in dirt which typically accounts for 80% of the soil deposited inside a building entry. In a larger commercial installations throughout lobby/foyer Quantum suggests laying approx. 1.5m of matting outside the main entrance and 1.5m inside.

In the home environment, ideally the removal of shoes will increase the performance and lifetime of a cork floor. Typically, this is not always possible so a suitable mat or floor protector is highly recommended to inhibit and/or reduce soiling and wear in these vulnerable entrance areas.

*Note: Never use latex or rubber backed mats, as these can sometimes stain floor or leave permanent residues.

Curtains/Blinds/UV Protection

Much like hardwood flooring, cork will tend to discolor and fade when it's exposed to direct sunlight for prolonged periods. You can help prevent sun damage with curtains or blinds that can be closed/tilted when needed.

Heels and Pet Nails

Pet nails, especially those on larger dogs, can scratch or even gouge the protective surface of the flooring. Simply keeping your pets well-groomed and controlling the length of their nails can do a lot to help prevent damage. If you wear high heels in the house, make sure you maintain the padding on the tips of the heels. The amount of pressure exerted by the pointed tip of an average woman's heel is extremely concentrated weight,

and can likely leave impressions in cork flooring. This may recover given the natural character of cork, however the less indentations will result a easier surface to clean. An ideal suggestion is simply to take off high heels when you're indoors.

Furniture Pads

Another potential danger to your cork floors are the pointed legs of heavy furniture pieces. Protect your floor from gouges and scratches with inexpensive furniture pads placed under the legs. These are especially helpful for pieces that are moved frequently, such as chairs and ottomans.



Regular Maintenance

Cork floor and wall coverings are naturally beautiful and whilst resilient and easy to maintain - without regular and correct maintenance efforts, soiling and staining can become evident to the naked eye reducing the visual aesthetics. Controlling soil is a preventative concept which will keep soiling to a minimum and prevent the build-up of abrasive dirt which can damage the surface. With tracked in and airborne soil accounting for 95% of the overall soil deposited on flooring, it follows that regular vacuuming is the most important component of regular flooring maintenance. Effective and regular vacuuming should remove up to 80% of the soil present on cork flooring.

A good maintenance programme gives special attention to the areas where soil is tracked in (such as entrance doorways) and to areas where foot traffic is most concentrated (such as passage ways, kitchen areas, lift entries etc). This may only be a small percentage of the total flooring area but can account for most of any maintenance cost. Ensure that the floor tool is repaired or replaced should it become burred, so as not to damage or scratch flooring surface.

WISE Wood, Hydrocork (wood effect surfaces)

For effective cleaning and maintenance on these products, the following steps can be taken and maintained:

- 1. Vacuuming:** For high traffic and tracked soil areas vacuum daily using equipment with good suction and high air flow.
- 2. Mopping:** Use a mild detergent solution (*Bona Tile and Laminate Cleaner*), using a lightly moistened mop - ideally microfibre Bona Spray Mop and use in a regular mopping action. Regular rinsing of mop-head will reduce any residue build up, helping maintain a clean floor for longer. Try not to allow water or cleaner to accumulate on floor where possible.

WISE Cork, Core Pure (natural cork surfaces)

- 1. Vacuuming:** Vacuum regularly using equipment with good suction and high air flow. Regular and effective vacuuming will prevent buildup in any natural surface indentations.

- 2. Mopping:** Use a mild detergent solution (*Bona Timber Cleaner*), using a lightly moistened mop - ideally microfibre Bona Spray Mop and use in a regular mopping action. Regular rinsing of mop-head will reduce any residue build up, helping maintain a clean floor for longer. Try not to allow water or cleaner to accumulate on floor where possible.
- 3. Deep clean:** For periodic deep cleans, or spot cleaning for grime or surface build up - use *Bona Timber Deep Cleaner*.

Dekwall cork wall treatments

- 1. Lightly** dust on a regular basis or as visibly required, to inhibit buildup of any dust particles on textured surfaces.
- 2. For** spot cleaning, use a dampened cloth and lightly wipe or dab surface. *Bona Timber Spray* cleaners may be used to aid removal of any stubborn marks or spots. Take care not to remove surface waxes or vanishes through excessive action.

All suggested cleaning methods can be found on packaging, and technical data sheets. Please don't hesitate to check if unsure.

Long Term Maintenance

Longer term maintenance may be required to ensure you get a nicer looking floor for longer. Cork is a 100% natural product, and needs some measure of care to maintain and ensure it continues to perform and satisfy.

Standard cork flooring should be sealed to protect it from water penetration and staining agents. The sealer used most often is a UV-resistant polyurethane mix that creates an invisible layer over the surface of the floor. Surface finishes can wear off over time and must be reapplied, often every year or two to help maintain a protective seal over the flooring. For suitable sealers, please contact your local flooring store or installation company for suitable and available sealers here in NZ. Bona Traffic Natural is a recommended coating for all natural cork flooring.

Note that some cork flooring is prefinished at the factory with a tough protective sealer. If you have prefinished flooring, consult the flooring manufacturer for recommendations about any sealing requirements on the floor after installation.

Recommended Products



Bona Floor Spray Mop

Bona premium floor mops are durable, effective and easy to use. The Wood Floor Spray Mop enables you to clean and maintain your wood floor in a sweep. Ergonomic and simple to use. The Spray Mop is quick to assemble and refill with the specially developed Bona floor cleaner cartridge. Forget filling up a bucket and adding concentrate - just spray and clean.

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Stone, Tile & Laminate Cleaner

[Click Here for Data Sheet](#)



Wood Floor Cleaner

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