

# FLOORING AFTERCARE MANUAL

# Aftercare Instructions for FLOORINGS

## TYPES OF FLOORINGS

1. ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING
2. LAMINATE FLOORING
3. WOOD PLASTIC COMPOSITE DECKING  
(WPC)

# 1. ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING

## 1.1 Clean, Maintain And Conserve Your Engineered Wood Flooring

Thanks to their pre-finished surface, owners now have an easier way to maintain their Engineered Wood Flooring. Not only are these floorings created to add beauty to any room, they are also easy to clean and maintain. For everlasting beauty and glow of your Engineered Wood Floorings, follow our professional tips and procedures to help you clean, maintain and conserve its value.

## 1.2 Avoiding Damage

- As with all other floor coverings, your new Engineered Wood floor should be protected from dirt particles by providing “walk-off zones” (outfitted with doormats / carpet runners).
- To protect from scratches, we recommend that you fit all chairs, tables and other movable furniture pieces with appropriate, soft felt glides.
- Use only soft castors on office chairs, filing cabinets and wheeled containers.
- Areas which are subjected to heavy castor-traffic should be covered with special protective mats that are available in most stores specialising in office supplies.
- Putting up additional wax layers or adding other surface treatments to your Engineered Wood flooring or to its edges is not necessary, as these measures do not improve the look or enhance the serviceability of the flooring.
- Never scrub with steel wool or any other coarse material as this may affect the appearance of the texture.
- We recommend regular dry cleaning of your Engineered Wood floor using a vacuum cleaner (brushes up) and/or a broom.
- Wiping of the floor with a damp cloth is necessary for severe soiling. When wiping, it is important to remember that the cloth has to be extremely well wrung out so that no puddles of standing water are formed.

### 1.3 Maintenance

Here are some general advice on the maintenance of your Engineered Wood Flooring.

- Engineered Wood Flooring is best maintained in places where the humidity level is in the range of 50% - 65%. This keeps your flooring and personal well-being in optimum condition.
- Sand and dirt can act like abrasive paper on your floors and should be avoided.
- Liquids spilled and/or standing on the floor have to be removed immediately.
- Do not use any scouring or abrasive cleaners, waxes, hot steam cleaners or polishes. They will cloud the floors' visual appearance.
- Fit furniture, tables and chairs with soft felt glides. Use only soft castors on office chairs and cover the main castor-traffic areas with commercially available protective mats.
- Do not use steam cleaners.
- Ordinary cleaning: Vacuum (without the beater bar) or sweep the floor using a broom to remove dirt and dust. You may occasionally wipe the floor with a damp cloth.
- In case of any stains or spillages, spray the floor cleaning agent directly on the stains or spillages. Let the floor cleaning agent dissolve the stains for a few minutes and then proceed to clean the floor with a damp mop using only water.
- String mop heads will leave a trail of water behind and are not recommended.

## 1.4 Cleaning And Maintenance Of Surfaces With Lacquer-Finish

### 1.4.1 Cleaning

- Remove dirt, dust and other loose particles directly with a broom or vacuum.
- Damp wipe with floor cleaner. (Please refer to the cleaner cleaning instructions from supplier)

### 1.4.2 Maintenance Cleaning

- Remove dust, fluff and loose particles with a brush or vacuum cleaner.
- Wipe off localised dirt with a damp cloth.
- If you encounter severe stains, damp wipe your floor using water and floor cleaner. Always make sure you do not leave behind any trail of water on the floor by wringing your cloth out thoroughly. (Please refer to the cleaner cleaning instructions from supplier)

### 1.4.3 Stain Removal And Leveling Of Slight Scratches

- Apply a small amount of floor cleaner to a piece of cloth and wipe the respective surface. (Please refer to the cleaner cleaning instructions from supplier).
- Polish it off dry after a few minutes. Repeat if necessary.
- Finally, use a damp wipe to clean the surface that you have applied the floor cleaner.

### 1.4.4 Repairing Severe Scratches And Damages

- Damaged areas can be repaired by using a palette knife and colour coordinated soft repair wax from the manufacturer's range of accessories.

## 1.5 Cleaning And Maintenance Of Surfaces With Oil Impregnation

### 1.5.1 Cleaning

- Remove dirt and dust and other loose particles directly with a broom or vacuum.
- Damp wipe the floor thoroughly using a mixture of water and floor cleaner. (Please refer to the cleaner cleaning instructions from supplier)
- Damp wipe the floor in lengthwise direction of the planks.
- Always damp wipe only. Do not leave trails of water that will form puddles on the floor.

### 1.5.2 Maintenance Cleaning

- Remove dust, fluff and loose particles with a brush or vacuum cleaner.
- For normal maintenance cleaning, mix wood floor cleaner with water. (Ratio depends on the cleaner manufacturer's recommendations).
- Always use plain water to rinse out the wiping cloth before dipping it into the cleaner solution again.
- For partial soiling, you can also apply the cleaner solution with a cloth and use it to remove the dirt.

## 1.6 Refreshing And Restoring

Floors can start to get dull in appearance after a period of time or if it is heavily used. Enhance the beauty and value of your flooring by using treatment paste. (Please refer to the treatment paste instructions from supplier)

Refreshing and restoring can be done for the whole floor area or just for certain parts.

- First of all, the floor must be damp wiped with a floor cleaner. (Please refer to the cleaner cleaning instructions from supplier).
- After a drying phase of at least 4 hours, the floor is now ready to be treated with treatment paste.
- Make sure that the floor is absolutely dry before applying the paste.
- Use a cotton cloth to apply a very thin layer of the treatment paste to the floor and work it in with a pad or a cotton cloth. For large areas, a single-disk machine can be rented from specialised dealers. We recommend that you test on a small area how much of the paste the flooring actually absorbs before you proceed to treat the whole floor.
- Use the treatment paste very sparingly and use dry cotton cloths to remove any excess paste.
- The floor must not be walked on for at least 24 hours as the oil will only be fully cured after 24 hours.
- The first cleaning with wood floor cleaner should take place 4 days after restoration at the earliest. Any dampness on the floor before that should be avoided.

## 1.7 Intensive Cleaning For Severe Soiling

- If the floor is very dirty or is showing the walking zones, damp wipe the floor with a floor cleaner first to remove old layers of soap.
- After you have gone through this cleaning process, it is essential that the planks are wiped and treated again with the respective wood floor cleaner. (Ratio depends on the cleaner manufacturer's recommendations)

## 1.8 Complete Renovation & Resurfacing

- When you have decided to do a complete resurfacing of your Engineered Wood flooring due to damages or other impairments and your floor planks have a lacquer-finish, you need to sand the entire flooring area.
- With oiled floors, the resurfacing can also be done partially.
- Depending on the type of damage, each sanding process will be able to remove approximately 0.5mm of the damage. So Engineered Wood flooring with a wear layer of 3.5mm for instance, can be sanded and resurfaced several times without any problems.
- For necessary surface treatments after resurfacing, you may use treatment paste or any product recommended by your specialised dealer.
- Surface treatments for all kinds of materials, including those meant for lacquer-finish and oil or wax-based products, can be obtained easily on the market.
- For Engineered Wood flooring, you can basically use any treatment solutions that are recommended by the manufacturer of your flooring.

## 1.9 Cleaning Of Brushed / Textured Surfaces

- Brushed surfaces are more prone to dirt and soiling resulting in slightly increased care and maintenance efforts.
- Be sure to install extended “walk-off zones” for your cleaning convenience.
- Cleaning measures for all textured surfaces should follow and be carried out in the direction of the flooring texture.



## 2. LAMINATE FLOORING

### 2.1 Clean, Maintain And Conserve Your Laminate Flooring

Laminate Flooring boards come with a melamine-resin-coated surface and are therefore particularly hard-wearing. To maintain and conserve the value of your laminate flooring, follow these professional cleaning and maintenance procedures.

### 2.2 Avoiding Damage

- As with all other floor coverings, your new Laminate floor should be protected from dirt particles by providing “walk-off zones” (outfitted with doormats / carpet runners).
- To protect the Laminate flooring against scratches, we recommend that you fit all chairs, tables and other movable furniture pieces with appropriate, soft felt glides.
- Use only soft castors on office chairs, filing cabinets and wheeled containers.
- Additionally, areas which are subjected to heavy castor-traffic should be covered with special protective mats that are available in most stores specialising in office supplies.
- Putting up additional wax layers or adding other surface treatments to your Laminate flooring or to its edges is not necessary, as these measures do not improve the look or enhance the serviceability of the flooring.
- Never scrub with steel wool or any other coarse material as this may affect the appearance of the texture.
- We recommend regular dry cleaning of your Laminate floor using a vacuum cleaner (brushes up) and/or a broom, followed by mopping with a well-wrung mop.
- When wiping, it is important to remember that the cloth has to be extremely well wrung out so that no puddles of standing water are formed.

## 2.3 Maintenance

Here are some general advice on the maintenance of your Laminate Flooring.

- Sand and dirt can act like abrasive paper on your floors and should be avoided.
- Liquids spilled and/or standing on the floor have to be removed immediately.
- Do not use any scouring or abrasive cleaners, waxes, hot steam cleaners or polishes. They will cloud the floor's visual appearance.
- Fit furniture, tables and chairs with soft felt glides.
- Use only soft castors on office chairs and cover the main castor-traffic areas with commercially available protective mats.
- Do not use steam cleaners.
- Ordinary cleaning: Vacuum (without the beater bar) or sweep the floor using the broom to remove dirt and dust. You may occasionally wipe the floor with a damp cloth.
- In case of any stains or spillages, spray the floor cleaning agent directly on the stains or spillages. Let the floor cleaning agent dissolve the stains for a few minutes and then proceed to clean the floor with a damp mop using only water.
- String mop heads will leave a trail of water behind and are not recommended.

## 2.4 Matt Textures

- Dirt generally sticks harder to floors with matt textures.
- We recommend that you clean the floor more regularly and use a floor cleaner on the entire floor or area to dissolve dirt stuck to the surface.

## 2.5 Polished Texture

- Dried watermarks are often more visible on polished textures.
- For the most pleasant results, always wipe the surface with dry mop after damp cleaning.

## 2.6 Floors With Beveled Edge

- Floors with beveled edges are more sensitive to water since the bevel acts as a pocket where water can collect.
- Never clean these types of floors with a lot of water. Instead, use a well wrung damp mop and make sure no water is collected in the bevel.

## 2.7 Stubborn Stains

- Severe stains such as those from shoe polish, lacquers, tar, oil, grease, ink or lipstick are best treated with a cloth dipped in solvent.
- For this purpose, you can use solvents such as acetone, nail polish remover or petrol for home use.
- When using these, adhere to all safety instructions and use solvents sparingly only on the respective areas.

### 3. WOOD PLASTIC COMPOSITE DECKING (WPC)

#### 3.1 Clean, Maintain And Conserve Your Geff (Forexia®) Wood Plastic Composite

- Geff (Forexia®) deck boards do not need any specific treatment. In fact, no treatment product is ever required.
- All you need to do is to keep up with a standard maintenance routine and that is enough to maintain your deck in good condition.

#### 3.2 When Do You Wash Your Deck?

- It is recommended to wash your deck as and when necessary.
- Maintenance and appearance is best kept when decking is cleaned and maintained once every quarter or when necessary.

#### 3.3 How To Clean Your Deck?

- Use a scrub brush - always brush the deck boards in longitudinal direction and wash them with water and a soft diluted detergent (deck cleaner).
- To clean the spaces in between the deck boards, use a metallic blade so that the water can be easily drained away.

#### 3.4 How To Clean Stains?

- Outside dirt can generate stains. To clean them, use a deck cleaner with diluted bleach.
- For oil or grease stains, you can wash them away easily with just a standard deck cleaner.

### 3.5 How To Make Scratches Disappear?

- In case of persistent scratches or stains, use a brass brush to solve this problem.
- To protect your deck boards, wet the deck boards before you brush so that it will not discolour or fade.
- Slightly brush the deck boards in longitudinal direction.
- Grease stains will usually disappear after a few weeks of exposure under the UV rays.
- A brushing or sanding can generate a slight discolouration that will disappear after a period of time.

### 3.6 How To Accelerate Absorption Of Water Staining?

- Water staining due to uneven exposure to UV and rain can occur around furniture or under gutter.
- These stains easily become blurred as time goes by, helped by UV and rain action.
- It is possible to accelerate the process by wetting and cleaning the area with a scrub brush (brushed in longitudinal direction of the deck boards).

### 3.7 Do Not Use Geff (Forexia®) Products Indoors

- For maintenance purpose, we do not advise you to use our products indoors or in sheltered areas that are not exposed to UV rays or rain as our products need to be exposed outdoors.

#### NOTE:

- Do not use solvent base cleaners.
- Do not apply wood stain or paint.