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GOOD MAINTENANCE - FLOOR LIFE

There are many factors that influence how long a floor will last. Maintenance by regular cleaning to remove grit is essential. This should be effected by wiping with a dry mop or sweeping. DO NOT USE A WET MOP OR STEAM CLEANING on any wooden floor. For the best cleaning use 'FloorSoap'[1] - spray on and wipe off with a dry mop.

Always use grit removing mats or rugs at entrances to outside areas and ensure feet are wiped to remove water, dirt and grit from the bottom of shoes and feet. Do not use rubber or other dense mat backings that prevent airflow beneath rugs and retain abrasives and humidity. Internal rugs need to be kept clean. Immediately wipe any spills to remove liquid. If required, use soap and water in a damp cloth to remove oily or sticky substances. Make sure the cloth is wrung our so that no water can be squeezed from it.

Hard objects being slid over the floor will scratch and soft/ scratch reducing slippers should be placed under all furniture.

A floor suffering from slight scratching should be rejuvenated by coating with our OBJECT OIL[2] which fills the scratches and masks the wear. These coats rejuvenate appearance and increase the life. Use it for visual effect and to keep the floor looking close to the way it was when it came from the factory. Apply before the floor becomes unsightly.

Apart from the extra life obtained by using OBJECT OIL and the wear experienced, the life of the floor before re-coating is determined by three measurable properties:

Scratch resistance: The harder the coating material the more it is able to resist scratching. However some very hard coats can flake off the surface so coating hardness is not a perfect measure. This is measured by draging a sharp implement with a known load across the surface.

Wood hardness: The harder the wood is that supports the coating the less the surface will dent and by having harder material under the coat the coating is better supported and resists deformation. The basic wood hardness is measured using a round steel ball which is pushed into the wood and the load needed to do this is measured, called a Janka Test.

Coating thickness. It is obvious that it will take longer to wear through a thicker layer than a thin one. Coating thickness and coating hardness are sometimes measured in a combined measuring process [Taber Test] that scratches the surface and continues to scratch it until it is worn through. The measure is the given in the number of cycles of scratching that were needed to wear the coating through.

There are many individual taber tests developed for a wide range of materials so a simple statement of the cycles does not assist unless the details of the test are known. The same laboratory doing many tests allows a comparison of products but disparate laboratories results are not definitive.[3]

The hardest coatings are factory applied in multiple layers. The harder the coating the thinner it needs to be applied. The rapid curing using Ultra Violet light that con be done in a factory allows 6 or 7 coats to be applied with varying coating types formulated to give the maximum life. It is almost impossible to achieve the same level of hardness with coating of floors in the home. Therefore the life before re-coating will almost always be much longer than after subsequent re-coats.

[1] A specially formulated cleaning agent for wood floors.

[2] Object Oil – Supplied by Briggs - manufacturer PNZ Products, Germany.
Clean the floor, apply a thin coat or spray and immediately buff with soft cloth or powered buffing pad. It is important to buff until the product is dry.

[3] ASTM D4060 - 07 Standard Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Organic Coatings by the Taber Abraser, "1.2 Because of the poor reproducibility of this test method, it should be restricted to testing in only one laboratory when numerical abrasion resistance values are to be used. Interlaboratory agreement is improved significantly when rankings of coatings are used in place of numerical values. AND 1.4 This standard is similar in content (but not technically equivalent) to ISO 7784-2."

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