

## **MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING OF WOODEN FLOORING**

Room conditions have a decisive influence on the durability and optical appearance of wooden floors. Low air humidity leads to formation of gaps between individual parts of the flooring. On the other hand, high air humidity causes the deformation and swelling of the flooring. The room temperature about 18 – 22°C with the air humidity between 55-65% is essential for maintaining the utility value of the flooring.

- Dirt and sand act similarly as a sandpaper and should be therefore removed immediately from the parquet surface. Place doormats to both sides of the door.
- Felt leg protectors for furniture, tables and chairs prevent creation of scratches and imprints on the parquet surface.
- Spilled liquid should be cleaned immediately.
- Office (swivel) chairs should be equipped with soft castor wheels made for hard floor coverings. The wheels of the castors are of a different color than the casters.

### **Cleaning and maintenance of lacquered parquets**

For regular cleaning use a vacuum cleaner, a broom or a mop. Occasionally sweep the floor thoroughly with a properly wrung cloth. Do not use any abrasive cleaning products or methods. The most suitable cleaning detergents are those made specifically for the maintenance of lacquered parquet flooring. The cloth used for cleaning the floor should always be only slightly moist. Wet cloth may cause damage to the flooring. Do not use microfiber cleaners and steam cleaners for parquet floors.

For regular maintenance use products intended for parquet flooring maintenance. First, clean the floor as usual. Then wipe with a moist cloth, adding a proper amount of the parquet flooring maintenance product into the cleaning water.

Polishes for lacquered parquets. Apply the undiluted product on the parquets and divide it thinly with a damp, lint-free cloth. Do not step on the floor while wet. It is recommended to apply the product in two layers (higher gloss, reduced mapping). Frequency of use depends on the intensity of floor stress after approx. 2 months. The use of polishing agents leads to higher abrasion resistance and thus longer durability of the flooring.

### **Stain removal**

The best way to remove stains from this surface is to use a moist cloth. If necessary, use a little bit of soap or rinse aid. Remove stubborn stains as described in the following points. Be careful with aggressive stain removers that can disrupt the lacquer surface when used in large quantities and if intensively rubbed.

- Remove asphalt, shoe soles, oil, shoe polish, soot and dried chocolate or grease stains with, for example, rubbing alcohol.
- Remove stains caused by markers, lipstick or ink with a 1: 1 mixture of water and rubbing alcohol.

- Cool stains from candlewax or chewing gums with ice spray or ice cubes in a plastic bag. Then carefully scrape off.

### **Cleaning and maintenance of wax-treated parquets**

Regular floor cleaning should be performed by a vacuum cleaner, a mop or a broom.

Regular maintenance: First, vacuum or sweep the floor in a regular way. Then mop with a cloth moist with lukewarm water to which 1% of wax oil is added (one cap of the product for each liter of water). Too little or too much wax oil in the water increases the floor's tendency to stain. The floor cloth should be thoroughly squeezed, not too damp. After mopping, it is recommended to let the floor dry overnight. Do not use cleaning agents intended for other types of flooring. Do not add any other detergents into the cleaning water containing wax oil.

This “cloth-mopping” maintenance is somewhat more difficult than the maintenance of lacquered parquet floors. The floor, however, remains really nice after this refreshment for a long period of time.

It is important that the floor is permanently saturated with wax oil. If regular maintenance (see above) is not sufficient due to a prolonged period in between cleanings, the wax oil may also be used undiluted on the floor using a mop or the like. Be careful not to put too much product on the floor. The surface then does not seal properly and the oil can mix with dirt particles. Please note that waxed parquet flooring is slightly more slippery than lacquered flooring.

### **Stain removal**

Use warm water containing a suitable cleaning detergent for removing regular stains. Do not use detergents containing ammonia. It is possible to use rinse aid or a sticky soap.

Dry stains are best removed by using a small amount of wax oil or rubbing alcohol. Alcohol should be used in adequate amount and wipe off carefully after cleaning. Stubborn stains, imprints and scratches can be simply removed with a fine sandpaper. After sanding, apply wax oil on the surface.

Wax oil should be used only on finished floor surfaces. Floors treated with hard oil and hard wax at the place of installation should be cleaned and maintained by products and methods intended for this specific type of flooring.

Attention! Cloths soaked with wax oil may ignite spontaneously. Therefore, wash used cloths after each use in soapy water or soak them in clean water and then dispose of them in a closed waste container.

- Cleaning with steam cleaners is not recommended as hot steam can damage the protective layer of the covering and moisture can penetrate under the slats and cause their deformation.