



CARING FOR YOUR TIMBER FLOOR INFORMATION SHEET

Your timber floor is easy to care for and if looked after you will receive long service life from it. The following is a guide for caring for your floor based on our experience and if interested, we have additional literature in our Showroom

Expansion and contraction

Your floor has been dried and oven tested between 9-14% moisture content. Timber is a hygroscopic material so it will absorb surface and atmospheric moisture and react by expanding and contracting. We have provided expansion gaps in your floor to account for this movement (*where necessary*).

The degree of movement will depend on local conditions. Heating and air conditioning will alter local temperature and humidity - your floor may expand and contract in response to this. Closing up your home up for extended periods will also alter conditions and result in floor movement. Full length windows, skylights and large glass areas admitting direct sunlight will heat a room up and reduce its humidity level. It is *strongly* advised windows and skylights have heavy duty coverings (*including during construction*).

Colour changes

Floor coatings will alter in colour over time. Polyurethane coatings tend to yellow light coloured floors like Tasmanian Oak and darken other species and Spotted Gum. Synteko coatings tend to hold the colour of the floor at sand stage longer and look more natural.

Sunlight will affect the colour of timber. Moving rugs and furniture around will reduce the effect and using curtains and blinds is a good idea. If you decide to recoat your floor in the future the floor can be restored to its sanded colour.

Scratches

Whilst the coating on your floor is curing, it is recommended foot traffic is kept to an absolute minimum. Initially we suggest people wear socks on the floor, this prevents shoes from potentially scratching it and oils from skin affecting the coating whilst it cures. If your floor has been coated using Synteko, the following guide is used to ensure proper curing.

- Walking on floors at least 24 hours
- Replacing furniture on floors 2-3 days
- Carpet covering 1-2 weeks
- Washing of floor at least 4-6 weeks

Once the floor has cured, minimise traffic likely to cause scratches and damage to flooring. Scratches are often caused by the following.

- Shoes that can hold gravel, stones and dirt.
- Pets running or playing on flooring.
- Furniture/whitegoods being dragged across flooring.

Door mats at building entries can reduce scratching from shoes. Felted and rubber stops on the bottom of furniture can reduce damage caused by moving furniture. A range of these are available to suit different furniture leg types (eg metal, timber) and can be purchased at the Barwon Timber Showroom.

Cleaning

We vacuum clean our timber floors in the Showroom and office spaces using a soft brush attachment. Then if needed, we buff the floor using a soft cloth and spray cleaner. The Showroom has cleaning products and equipment suitable for timber flooring. An electrostatic brush or cloth can also be used to pick up dust.

Liquid spills should be cleaned up quickly. We do not recommend wet mopping timber floors or the use of steam mops.

If you have any queries or need further information on your floor, we are happy to help you.