



Oiled Wood Maintenance Guide

Congratulations! You have made a wise choice with La Maison Nicolas hardwood flooring. La Maison Nicolas high quality and gorgeous finish, combined with regular maintenance, will preserve the beauty of your wood floors for many years to come. To preserve all the beauty of your floor, simply follow a few very simple maintenance suggestions.

Weekly Maintenance

1. Sweep or vacuum floor to remove any dust or abrasive material. Do not use the vacuum beater bar.



2. Spray a light coat of WOCA Oil Refresher directly over the soiled area or on a terry cloth mop cover.



3. Mop floor with a back-and-forth motion in same direction as strips, cleaning only a small area at a time. Finish one section before starting another.

Note: Never pour cleaner or any other liquid directly onto the floor surface. This will prevent liquid from penetrating between boards into the tongue and groove area, therefore causing damage to the wood fibers. If the mop itself is dirty, it can cause streaking on the floor. Please replace it with a clean one. You can hand wash or machine wash terry cloth mop covers like any other terry cloth towel. Please avoid using fabric softener during wash and/or dry cycle, as it leaves a residue on the mop, leaving unwanted chemical deposits on your floor.



Monthly / Quarterly Maintenance

WOCA Oil Refresher is V.O.C. Free. It gently cleans and leaves a protective matte oil film in the wood floor. WOCA Oil Refresher Natural is typically used for natural oiled and color oiled floors and WOCA Oil Refresher White for white oiled wood. WOCA Oil Refresher combines efficient cleaning with simultaneous re-oiling. The oil penetrates the wood and provides the surface with a protective matte film. The use of WOCA Oil Refresher will extend the life of the oil finish, therefore, extending the periodic oil maintenance application.



The floor must be free from dust before treatment. Shake the bottle well before use.

1. Mix WOCA Oil Refresher with lukewarm water:

- For Traditionally Oiled/Waxed floors: 1:20 (3/4 cup WOCA Oil Refresher per gallon of water).
- For Factory UV-Oiled floors: 1:40 (3/8 cup WOCA Oil Refresher per gallon of water).
- Use 2 buckets - one with the WOCA Oil Refresher mix and one with clean rinse water.
- It is recommended to clean an area of approximately 50 SF at a time. By doing it this way, the floor is exposed to moisture for a short period.

2. Dip the mop into the mixture and with the well wrung mop wipe lengthwise on the wood. Then clean the mop head in the rinse water, wring very well, and continue until the whole floor is cleaned.

3. Leave the floor to dry for approximately 2 hours before use.

Note: Oiled wood floors can also be cleaned regularly with WOCA Soap 'Natural' or 'White' and re-oiled with WOCA Maintenance Oil at periodic intervals in residential areas and more often in commercial areas. On surfaces exposed to extremely hard wear, spot treatment can be done. So as not to develop unwanted oil buildup it is recommended that cleaning with WOCA Soap and Oil Refresher be alternated so that Oil Refresher is not used more than 4 times a year.

Drying time: 2 hours at 68°F. **Consumption:** Approximately 1,600 SF/liter. **Storage:** Store in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight and high temperature.



We recommend that you:

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to keep your floor free of dust and eliminate abrasives that can scratch the finish.
- Note! Beater bars and dirty wheels on your vacuum can mark your floor.
- Quickly wipe up any spills from the floor to protect wood from excess liquids.
- Use mats outside and inside entrances so sand and other abrasives cannot build-up on floor. Avoid mats with rubber or other dense backings that will block airflow beneath rugs or might retain abrasives and humidity.
- Use mats near sink, dishwasher and workstations to protect your floor from cooking tools, water, soaps, oils and other kitchen mishaps.
- Stick felt pads under all furniture or chair legs so they can slide easily and to avoid scratches. Always keep such pads clean. Check often for signs of wear, in which case promptly replace.
- Large soft polyurethane or rubber casters are much better than narrow hard plastic casters.
- Protect your floor when moving heavy furniture. One idea: Turn a mat over then place a piece of plywood on it. Put furniture on this so it can slide smoothly over your floor. Make sure the mat's surface is clean and free of sand, rocks, or other abrasive objects.
- Pointed objects like spiked-heeled and sport shoes can easily damage the finish of your floor especially if worn or damaged.

Note: Water and sand are the worst enemies of hardwood floors. Next are spiked heeled shoes. This is true for all floor surfaces, even a concrete floor!

- Keep the relative humidity level around 45% (ideally between 40% and 50%) for your good health as well as for your wood floor and wood furnishings. Wood is a natural material that absorbs and releases moisture depending on the relative humidity. With high humidity, wood absorbs the excess humidity and expands, which can cause buckling in La Maison Nicolas engineered flooring. Keep the humidity level down by using a dehumidifier or dehumidifying air conditioning system or with a heating system and good ventilation. During dry periods (periods of low relative humidity), wood releases moisture and will contract and shrink, which can cause gaps between strips and even cupping. If relative humidity is low, use a humidifier to reduce shrinking of the wood. The construction of La Maison Nicolas engineered flooring is not as prone to movement as traditional solid wood flooring, but it is still subject to the physical laws of nature and can shrink or expand in extremely dry or extremely humid environments.
- Pet claws should be regularly trimmed to avoid scratching floors.
- Your floor should be protected from sunlight and intense artificial lighting to reduce discoloration of exposed wood. Wood naturally changes color over time and with exposure to light and oxygen. This is a natural phenomenon with all wood surfaces. Different kinds of wood will change color to varying degrees. This is not a defect. You can minimize this color change by moving around furniture and carpets and reducing strong light sources.

Note: These changes in wood color result from the natural process of wood aging. It is not due to yellowing of the finish. Although your La Maison Nicolas floor finish is highly wear resistant, more than most competitive products on the market, it is not indestructible. If you follow the above preventive maintenance suggestions, you shall enjoy the beauty of your floor for a very long time.



Protecting Your Investment

Things to Avoid:

- Never pour cleaner or any other liquid directly onto floor surface.
- Do not use a wet mop that leaves excess water.
- Do not rub the surface too aggressively, as this can result in a spot that is shinier, and this is not considered a defect under the La Maison Nicolas warranty.
- Some manufacturers recommend cleaning floors with a warm water and vinegar solution. This is not recommended for La Maison Nicolas oiled wood floors.
- Do not use dish soaps or detergents or other household cleaning agents on your floors, since these products may dull or damage the finish.
- Do not use Steam Cleaners.
- Do not raise or lower temperature of subfloor radiant heat system by more than 5 °F (2.8 °C) per day when turning system on and off.

You Can Easily Replace a Damaged Strip

One major advantage of pre-finished flooring is the ability to easily and quickly replace a badly damaged piece. Replacing a piece is quick, clean and inexpensive compared to completely re-sanding and re-finishing the damaged piece. You should be able to replace a strip in less than 30 minutes. We suggest you keep some flooring planks on hand after installation. Please contact La Maison Nicolas for advice.

- 1 Select a replacement piece that most closely matches your floor.
- 2 Carefully cut out the damaged piece, cutting close to its edges with a wood chisel.
- 3 Use the wood chisel to carefully take out the center of the damaged piece first. Then carefully remove the remaining tongue and the groove edges. Make sure not to damage the adjoining pieces.
- 4 Clean the floor and the sub-floor of any residue. Cut the replacement piece to length to fit the piece you just removed. Cut off the end with the tongue.
- 5 Remove the bottom part of the groove from the one side and the one end of the new, replacement piece. This will allow your replacement piece to fit over the existing tongues sticking out from the existing adjoining pieces.
- 6 Try inserting this piece into the space to make sure that it fits well. Take back out again.
- 7 Now put a micro-V joint (bevel) on the cut end of the replacement piece with sandpaper and retouch it with a little stain and finish.
- 8 Finally, spread glue over the sub-floor and glue the replacement piece into place.



What Should You Do If You Have A Question?

We want you to be happy with your floor purchase. If you have questions or concerns about the Maintenance and Dos and Don'ts, contact La Maison Nicolas :

La Maison Nicolas
Customer Service
Info@LaMaisonNicolas.com
415-671-6362