



HARDWOOD FLOORING INSTALLATION & REFINISHING

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Hardwood floors, properly finished, are one of the easiest of all floor surfaces to keep clean. Once thought to be difficult to care for, hardwood floors are now seen as a beautiful alternative to tile, vinyl and even carpet. The most popular hardwood used in today's floors is oak, a natural product. Consequently some variations in color and appearance should be expected.

The following information is provided to answer frequently asked questions about the installation, finishing and maintenance of Hardwood Floors. This is a process that has several phases and it is important for you to understand the sequence in which they occur and how it will affect your lifestyle during the process.

Installation.

During the installation process, the floor can be walked on. Remember that your floors are "under construction" and some inconvenience should be expected. We will assist you with general dust protection (hang plastic from major openings to the area we are working in) however, should you have furnishings that are sensitive to fine dust, it is recommended that you cover them separately. Anticipate that the areas located near the new floors will require a dusting or cleaning. After the completion of the floor installation, a wood filler is used to fill in any cracks or gaps in the wood. Following this process the wood needs to sit at least two weeks to acclimate to the humidity or moisture levels in the home. You can walk on the floors at this time.

Sanding.

This is the point at which the most dust and noise are created. Our dust containment equipment is extremely efficient and we will take reasonable steps to isolate the areas to be sanded. However, we cannot guarantee dust will not enter other areas of the house. It is also the point at which walking on the floors is eliminated until the finish process is completed. The floors are sanded down to a uniform level. Should you be considering a "refinish" to your existing hardwood floors, this is the point at which we would begin.

Staining.

After the sanding is completed the floor is vacuumed and ready to be stained, if a stain or color is to be applied. Stain selection will be done with the customer present on the newly sanded floor. Remember that lighting and wall color will sometimes affect the stain color.

The wood flooring specialists ... we work only in wood.



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Finishing.

After the stain is applied or if the floor is to go natural (with no stain or added color) the first coat of finish is applied. Most floors are finished with an oil based polyurethane finish, a durable finish. Water bourn finishes are available if requested. Leslie Flooring applies three coats of finish. Between each coat we "screen" the floor and inspect it for any cracks and apply putty. Again, it is very important to stay off the floor at this time. Humidity and other moisture factors will affect drying time, however usually we do a coat a day. Base & Trim is usually installed between the second and third coats of finish.

Curing.

After 24 hours, your new floor is walkable. You can walk on the floor in soft-soled street shoes. You can also begin to set, not drag, furniture in place. Curing is usually complete after 10 days. After the 10 days area rugs can be put down.

Recoating.

A recoat is a new coat of finish applied to the floor without sanding down to the raw wood, it is away to "restore the luster" to the floor. Your floor will not accept a "recoat" if there is any oil or wax residue on the floor. This is important to remember if you wish to consider future "recoats". The floors "acceptance of a recoat" is solely the responsibility of the homeowner.

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