

AFM TECHNICAL BULLETIN: 6.29

AFM Naturals Oil Wax Finish Care and Maintenance

Regular Cleaning: Vinegar, water, and SuperClean make a great combination for floors. Never pour water on the floor. Use damp mops only so that water does not penetrate wood flooring. It should be thoroughly wrung and not dripping. Unlike regular wax finishes, oil wax can be damp mopped without worry of severe damage to finish.

Do Not: Use ammonia. **Do Not:** Use dust cleaners. **Do Not:** Track dirt, clean immediately. **Do Not:** Use other floor cleaning products unless recommended by AFM. **Do Not:** Use an upright vacuum with beater bars. They can cause dents in your floor's finish. **Do Not:** Use any dust treatment. Unless it is approved by your floor's manufacture, the wrong treatment can make your floor dull and cause problems the next time you refinish. **Do Not:** Use throw rugs with rubber or vinyl backing without checking to determine if they will affect your floor's finish. Some materials in the backing can react with certain floor finishes, discoloring or causing the finish to become dull. Wipe up food and other spills promptly with a dry cloth or paper towel. Use a slightly moistened cloth for sticky spills if necessary. Then wipe the floor dry with another cloth or paper towel. **Eliminate foot traffic with hard heels or heels that are damaged. When you move anything, always lift and place; never slide. For heavy objects, slip a square of carpet, pile side down, under the points touching the floor. Attach felt or nylon glides to legs, and check the glides occasionally for dirt, which can scratch the floor.**

Removing Stains

Dried milk or food stains: You may remove the superficial dried material with a sharpened blade. Be careful not to scratch the finish. Rub spot with damp cloth. Rub dry. Re-coat for waxed finish. Stains and spots caused by standing water can be removed by rubbing the spot with No. 1 steel wool and re-coat. Lightly buff. If this fails, sand lightly with fine sandpaper 90 to 120 grit. Clean spot and surrounding area using No. 1 or 0 steel wool and Naturals Diluent or a mild solution of SuperClean. Let floor dry. Apply matching finish on floor, feathering out into surrounding area. Buff after finish dries thoroughly.

Dark spot removal: Old, persistent, or stains that have penetrated surface may have to be sanded and refinished. Clean spot and surrounding area with No. 2 steel wool and Naturals Diluent. Thoroughly wash spotted area with household vinegar. Allow it to remain for three or four minutes. If spot remains, sand with fine sandpaper, follow the grain pattern of the wood, feathering out 3 to 4 inches into surrounding area, re-coat and polish.

Mold or mildew damage: After seeing that proper ventilation is provided for the room. The mold can usually be removed with a SuperClean and No. 1 steel wool. A rinse with Clorox household bleach and water may be necessary to kill spores. Use caution when using bleach. If mold is under the finish, refinishing is necessary.

Chewing gum, crayon, candle wax: Scrape the major residue with a razor blade. Apply ice until the deposit is brittle enough to crumble off. Naturals Diluent can remove remaining residue. Cigarette burns: If not too deep, steel wool will often remove them. Moisten steel wool with soap and water to increase effectiveness. Re-coat and buff.

Oil and grease stains: Remove with SuperClean and water followed by a buffing with Naturals Diluent.