

Finishing Options Guide

Choose the Right Finish for Appearance and Performance

The right finish protects your floor while enhancing its natural beauty. This guide covers oils, lacquers, and waxes to help you make an informed choice.

Lacquer Finishes

What It Is: Clear protective coating that sits on the wood surface, creating a durable barrier. Available in matt, satin, and gloss sheens.

Durability: Excellent - forms hard protective layer resistant to scratches and spills. Lasts 10-15 years with proper care.

Maintenance: Low - regular cleaning only. Cannot spot-repair; requires full room sanding when worn.

Aesthetic Effect:

- Creates uniform sheen across entire floor
- Enhances grain definition
- Slight amber tone with oil-based, clear with water-based
- Smooth, sealed appearance

Best For: High-traffic areas, families with children/pets, commercial spaces, minimal maintenance preference.

Premium Brands:

- **Morrells:** Professional-grade with excellent durability
- **Bona Traffic HD:** Ultra-hard commercial finish
- **Junkers HP Sport:** Ideal for sports halls and heavy use

Oil Finishes

What It Is: Penetrating finish that soaks into wood fibres, protecting from within while maintaining natural texture.

Durability: Good - requires more frequent maintenance but easily repairable. Can last decades with proper care.

Maintenance: Moderate - annual re-oiling in high-traffic areas. Can spot-repair scratches and wear without full refinishing.

Aesthetic Effect:

- Natural, matt appearance
- Enhances wood's tactile quality
- Deepens grain and colour
- "Living" finish that develops patina

Best For: Natural wood lovers, DIY maintenance, bedrooms, living areas, sustainable preferences.

Premium Brands:

- **Osmo Polyx-Oil:** Combines oil and wax for enhanced protection
- **Rubio Monocoat:** Single-coat application, molecular bonding
- **Treatex Hardwax Oil:** Natural ingredients, food-safe option

Wax Finishes

What It Is: Traditional finish creating soft sheen through buffed wax layers. Often combined with oil base.

Durability: Lower - requires frequent maintenance and reapplication. Sensitive to water and heat.

Maintenance: High - monthly buffing, quarterly reapplication in traffic areas. Easy spot repairs.

Aesthetic Effect:

- Soft, warm lustre
- Authentic period appearance
- Enhanced wood aroma
- Develops rich patina over time

Best For: Period properties, low-traffic areas, traditional interiors, enthusiasts who enjoy maintenance ritual.

Premium Brands:

- **Fiddes Hard Wax Oil:** Traditional formula with modern durability
- **Briwax:** Heritage finish for restoration projects
- **Liberon:** Paste waxes for authentic finish

Hybrid Systems

Hardwax Oils

Combines oil penetration with wax protection. Examples: Osmo Polyx-Oil, Marldon Hardwax Oil.

- Medium durability and maintenance
- Natural appearance with better protection than pure oil
- Spot-repairable

UV Oil Systems

Oil finish with UV-curing for instant hardness. Examples: Rubio Monocoat P