



MAINTENANCE OF KARELIA FLOORS (private use)

Karelia flooring products are delivered from the factory finished with a UV hardened finish that utilizes the latest Nano-Technology, providing excellent wear resistance. Karelia complies to the E1 emission classification for the traditional and oiled-finished products. This system promotes the development and use of low-emission properties for construction materials. In order to preserve the excellent properties of your Karelia Hardwood Floor through the years, you should take the following points into consideration when installing and maintaining your wood floor.

Hardwood floor maintenance is easy and pleasant when you keep these main points in mind:

- Correct humidity and temperature is essential, whether with or without radiant floor heating:
Keep room relative air humidity (RH) at 40% to 60 % and room temperature at 65 to 75 °F
- Maximum wood floor surface temperature at 80 °F and maximum daily temperature variation at 10 °F
- Door mats should be placed on the in- and outside of your main entrance to protect against scrapes and scratches
- DO NOT USE WATER DIRECTLY ON THE FLOOR. Use a well wrung-out damp cloth when cleaning
- Remove stains immediately
- Place felt under furniture legs
- Lower temperature and reduce ventilation system when home is empty, especially during the cold winter season
- Observe natural color changes of the wood floor by moving mats and furniture, if necessary

Room air and radiant floor heating

Wood is a natural material and is subject to stresses because of air humidity variations (i.e. it expands and contracts), especially in the colder parts of country. It is therefore important to maintain the relative humidity (RH) at 40 to 60 % and room temperature at 65 to 75 °F. Should conditions deviate significantly from these values, gaps may appear in the wooden floor or it may expand, for which the manufacturer, retailer or installer cannot be held liable. You can minimize the expansion and contraction of the floor by using

a humidifier during the dry seasons and using heat & ventilation during humid conditions. If you stay away for longer periods during the cold season, you can maintain the air humidity at a higher level by bringing the temperature down to 59 to – 64 °F and setting the ventilation system to its minimum level. You should acquire a moisture meter/hygrometer for your home, since the aforementioned humidity and temperature values are anyway healthier for you and your family. During the winter season, so-called hair hygrometers display readings that are on average 10 to 15 % too high, unless calibrated

At least once a month. We recommend obtaining a digital temperature/moisture combination meter. Beech, Jatoba and Maple react more to changes to humidity than other types of wood species, and are thus not recommended to be used in conjunction with radiant floor heating.

Radiant floor heating should be distributed evenly throughout the whole floor area. With radiant heated floors, the temperature of hardwood floors should never exceed 80 °F. The maximum floor surface temperature variation within a day should be 10°F. Take this into account, especially under area rugs and with regard to water-circulated floor heating systems, by measuring the surface temperature at the beginning of the circulation system. Under thick rugs, the surface temperature of the hardwood floor is 5 to 10 °F higher than on the surrounding floor area. Radiant floor heating causes the floor surface to dry up and induces additional wood contraction.

Post-installation maintenance

Loose dirt and impurities should be cleaned off the finished hardwood floor by using a vacuum cleaner and a lightly dampened mop or cleaning cloth. Use a mild cleanser, if necessary. After mopping, the floor must be dried. Wipe the floor dry with a clean cloth, if necessary. Protect newly installed floors with a breathable and suitable sturdy material such as pieces of cardboard or mats for the duration the moving in period. Do not tape the protective materials to the floor.

Note! UV radiation will change the color of the floor over time. The color of dark-colored wood species darkens; in light colored species, changes are less noticeable. Variations in color, such as the outlines of your rugs will even out in time as they are exposed to daylight.



Cleaning and maintenance

Place suitable mats or rugs on each side of the front entrance and beneath the coat rack to prevent sand and water from getting into your home. Remove abrasive dirt immediately. Avoid walking on your wood floor with pointed (stiletto) heels and ensure that pets' claws are short. When moving such furniture as refrigerators or freezers, cover the floor with, for instance, mats in order to prevent scratches and dents. Use as little water as possible when cleaning (i.e. a well wrung-out, damp mop). If visible moisture drops appears on your wood floor and the moisture does not evaporate within a minute, you are definitely using too much water. Immediately wipe away excessive water from the floor. Stains should be removed when floor is dry by using either a damp cloth or a mild cleanser. Avoid scrubbing with hard cleaners. For daily maintenance, it is enough to vacuum the floor or wipe it with and damp floor mop. Thus the floor surface will dry immediately without visible water droplets and stains appearing.

Spills and ingrown dirt should be removed using Bona Wood Floor Cleaner, a pH-neutral cleaner designed specifically for pre-finished wood floors or similar products. Floors can be wiped with a floor mop dipped in a mild cleansing solution (pH 6-8), and subsequently squeezed dry. Always avoid using excessive amounts of water when cleaning the floor. Use a concentrated cleaning solution in accordance to the manufacturer's instructions, too large amount of a concentrated cleaning solution may cause the floor to become dirty more quickly due to the buildup. Usually hardwood floors are damaged during the moving in period. The Hardwood floor surface cannot withstand the sliding or dropping of heavy objects on it. Office chairs equipped with casters require a mat or a plastic mat designed for this purpose in order to prevent abrasion to your floor.

Stain removal

Stain	Stain remover
Juice, wine, coffee, tea, chocolate	Cleansing solution
Oil, grease, soot, pitch, shoe polish	White spirit
Magic marker, ball-point pen, lipstick	Denatured alcohol
Blood	Cold water
PVAC glue	pH9 cleansing solution

Damage repair and reconditioning of finish

Use the Karelia reconditioning kit for the floor when repairing minor scratches and/or dents. The kit includes a putty tube, piece of sandpaper and bottle of the finish. Damages to the Karelia Profiloc boards are best rectified by replacing the defective boards. This replacement should be done by professionals, either without removing the surrounding boards or by dismantling the hardwood floor, starting from the wall, and replacing the defective boards. The other boards will not be damaged, and can be reused. It is best to dismantle a hardwood floor in the winter season, with relative air humidity at its lowest level. When dismantling, you should pay special attention to the end joints.

If the floor looks worn or is scratched, the floor can be treated with an appropriate polishing agent (Bona Wood Floor Refresher). Note! Wax-saturated hardwood polishing agents prevent the finish from adhering to the wood. Sand the surface until you reach bare wood before performing re-finishing.

Un-waxed hardwood floors can be refinished after light sanding using a water-based hardwood finish.

Stained products:

The same instructions apply to the maintenance of our Spice Collection's stained products. Deep scratches to the wood can be stained using Karelia's spot stain color.

Maintenance of hardwood floors in public places is different from that of floors in private dwellings. Contact us or visit our website at www.karelia-floors.com