



# GARRISON

CARE & MAINTENANCE

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OIL FINISH HARDWOOD

# Oil Finished Hardwood Flooring Care and Maintenance

**Like any floor covering, Garrison Collection factory-finished wood floors will show signs of wear over time, depending on the size and lifestyle of your family. By observing a few precautions and setting up a regular cleaning routine and maintenance program, you can expect years of beauty from your Garrison Collection hardwood floor.**

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

The following are examples of the reasonable and necessary maintenance you are expected to perform. They are not intended to be an exclusive list:

- Always use walk-off mats at entries and in high traffic areas, always be careful of any/all rolling loads from kid's toys, furniture, and chairs with proper felt covering is required to be used on all direct contact points, remove any/all hard plastic or metal sliders, all office chairs require a smooth hard surface mat for all office-style use. NEVER use gym weights or free-standing workout bicycles or training style equipment directly on your hardwood, as this will void your warranty.
- Proper floor protection of Ram Board is required for any appliance maintenance, delivery, servicing, or replacing appliances.
- Proper floor protection with clear plastic is required after installation and may not be covered until after 24 hours after the installation, then place clear plastic and Ram Boards during remodeling and/or addition of similar protection is required in order to omit any drywall dust, paint, and debris that may embed itself in the wood grain and cause contamination or trades-related damage.

- NEVER use tape on your floors, even those tapes with low adhesion properties.
- Before placing your new hardwood into service, dry sweep until the pad is full then replace until the area is clean, do not use a fiber-style beater bar on the hardwood. Felt type smooth beater bar is recommended, and always after each cleaning thereafter, requires a clean beater bar and wheels with no debris in the cleaning device.
- NEVER wet -mop, damp mop, or use a STEAM CLEANING MACHINE.
- Do not use oil soaps, liquid or paste wax products, or other household cleaners that contain SURFACTANTS such as citrus oils, lemon oil, tung oil, silicon, or ammonia. In addition to potentially voiding your warranty, the use of these and similar products will harm the long-term performance of your floor and may also affect its recoatability.
- Do not use 2-in-1 cleaners with polish that may contain acrylics or urethane polish to restore gloss. In addition to potentially voiding your warranty, these may produce unsatisfactory results and void your warranty.
- Remove spills promptly using a soft cloth and cleaning products listed above.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed and paws clean and free of dirt, gravel, grease, oil, and stains.
- Due to the natural characteristics of some hardwood species and UV light exposure, area rugs and/or furniture will take on a different color shading if window treatments and/or seasonal changes may occur. To limit those, moving the layout of your room is recommended with proper floor protection like Ram Board and using airlift style equipment (NEVER use hard plastic glides).

- Shoes: Take off all work boots with any metal, hard plastic runner style shoes, golf shoes, cleats, and high heels at all entries. These shoes may track in stone and debris, which adds an improper point load that may damage the visual appearance of any hardwood.

Attic stock: Please always keep at least one box or partial box for the future in the event something happens beyond anyone's control.

- Use ONLY WOCA cleaning and maintenance products on Garrison Collection oil finished floors. Use of other cleaning products may damage your floor and void your warranty. (See recommended WOCA products below.)
- Sweep or vacuum regularly since built-up grit can damage the surface of the wood.
- Always vacuum clean the floors prior to using cleaning solutions.
- When using a vacuum, the vacuum head must be a soft bristle brush or felt type. **Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar head.** Lastly, make sure the wheels of the vacuum are clean to avoid damaging the finish.
- Remove spills promptly using a soft cloth and WOCA Soap in a diluted format per WOCA mixing instructions.
- **NEVER use tape on your floors, including tapes with low adhesion properties, or flooring tapes.**
- Use area rugs in high-traffic areas and pivot points (e.g., stair landings, room entries, etc.), especially if you have a large family or indoor pets.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed and paws clean and free of dirt, gravel, grease, oil, and stains.

- Remove shoes with spiked or damaged heels before walking on floor.
- When moving heavy objects, furniture, or appliances, use a dolly and protective sheets of plywood.
- Place protective felt pads beneath furniture legs and feet to reduce scratches and dents to the flooring. Replace felt pads as needed.
- Verify all furniture casters are clean and operate properly (a minimum 1"-wide vinyl surface where it comes in contact with wood is recommended). Clean wheels periodically to remove dirt and debris.
- Exposure to the sun and its UV rays accelerates the oxidation and aging of wood. This can cause the wood stain and/or wood to fade and/or to change color. We recommend that you rearrange rugs and furniture periodically so the floor ages evenly. Exotic species like Brazilian Cherry are more susceptible to color change during the aging process. Our warranties do not cover damage from the sun and its UV rays.
- Maintain the proper relative humidity in your home between 35% - 55% at all times during the year. Use of a humidification system may be required to maintain proper humidity levels to avoid excessive drying of the wood flooring.
- Note, seasonal gapping should be expected.
- Surface checking can be expected if the humidity level is not properly maintained between 35% - 55% relative humidity or if the floor's surface temperature exceeds

82°F.

## RECOMMENDED WOCA CARE & MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS (SEE NEXT PAGE)

Garrison proudly uses WOCA products on all of our oil finished floors. WOCA is the leading plant-based, environmentally responsible, sustainable, nonpolluting, durable wood finish, with no artificial color pigments or preservatives. We recommend the following WOCA cleaning and maintenance products for optimum durability and a lasting good look of your Garrison Oil finished floor. Use of other cleaning products may damage your floor and void your warranty. Please do not attempt oil maintenance without retaining a professional for this service.

- **NOTE:** Most WOCA maintenance products are available in White or Natural. To know which color to use on your Garrison Collection flooring, please see the WOCA color guide on our website, found at: <https://www.garrisoncollection.com/support/care-and-maintenance>, and/or please ask for assistance by emailing [info@garrisoncollection.com](mailto:info@garrisoncollection.com)

## RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE PRODUCTS:

- **WOCA Natural Soap**

WOCA Natural Soap cleans and nourishes your Garrison oil finished floors and should be used on a monthly basis. WOCA Natural Soap leaves behind an invisible layer of soy and coconut fats, which makes your floor more dirt and wear resistant and easier to keep clean.

We suggest using the two-bucket method recommended by WOCA. You'll need a self-wringing mop and two buckets - one bucket containing WOCA Natural Soap (3 oz. solution/ gallon of water) and the second bucket with pure water to rinse the mop. (Change the water in the second bucket as needed to prevent the floor from getting a grayish gleam caused by dirty water.) For detailed instruction and a video tutorial, visit the Care & Maintenance tab under the support section of our website.

**NOTE:** *Take care to wring your mop thoroughly. Excessive water on your floor may damage your floor and void your warranty.*

You may also use Natural Soap in spray format for spills and weekly dusting if desired.

\*Available in White or Natural.

- **WOCA Oil Refresher**

WOCA Oil Refresher should be used quarterly to give your floor a thorough cleaning. Just like WOCA Natural Soap, we recommend using the 2-bucket method described above. WOCA Oil Refresher not only cleans, but also leaves an oil residue to promote the longevity of the oil finish.

\*Available in White or Natural.

- **WOCA Maintenance Oil/Maintenance Paste**

Although the oil finish on your Garrison floor should last between 3 to 5 years without needing to be re-oiled entirely, high traffic areas, and areas needing deep cleaning may become dry. Use Maintenance Oil to bring your flooring back to life. Use the WOCA Maintenance Paste for a higher level of sheen.

\*Available in White or Natural.

## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS RECOMMENDED FOR LONG TERM PRESERVATION AND CARE:

- **WOCA Stain/Spot Remover**

To remove those tough to get out spills and stains, use WOCA Stain Remover. Be careful to use according to directions.

While great at getting out the stains that the WOCA Natural Soap could not get out, WOCA

Stain Remover may also dry out the affected area. We recommend applying a small amount of WOCA Maintenance Oil or Paste to bring it back to life.

- **WOCA Wood Cleaner/Prep**

Use to give the floor a good a good cleaning prior to re-oiling. Normally Use to give the floor a good cleaning prior to re-oiling. Normally used with a string mop and allowed to dry.

**NOTE:** *DO NOT use for regular cleaning of your WOCA oil floor.*

- **WOCA Master Oil**

For use when re-oiling floors.

\*Available in White or Natural.

## INSTALLATION NOTES

Unlike other brands, you do not need to re-oil any Garrison product after installation. There are, however, a few maintenance tips to remember:

1. We recommend you install our flooring after all major construction, including painting, has been completed. This is especially

important for wire brushed products as drywall dust and other dirt is extremely difficult to remove from the wire brushed grooves.

2. Install Cleanly. It is very important to remove all glue residue during an oiled floor installation as trying to remove dried-on glue and residue will most likely dry out flooring in affected areas.
3. We recommend you clean your new floor with WOCA Natural Soap immediately after installation.