

# DUCHATEAU

SIGNATURE

DUCHATEAU HARDWOOD FLOOR  
MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES: OIL FINISHES

Congratulations on your purchase of a Duchateau® Hardwood Floor with an oil finish. Following these easy care instructions will help you maintain the beauty of your floor for years to come.

Duchateau® Signature Hardwood Floors are finished with penetrating oil that color and protect the floor from within rather than cover nature's beauty and merely sit on top.

An oiled floor is environmentally friendly, easy to maintain and easier to repair, however they must be maintained differently than polyurethane or aluminum-oxide finished floors. If true sustainability requires ease of repairs to last a lifetime along with environmentally safe additives, Duchateau® Signature Hardwood Floors finished with Natural Oils are a great choice for beauty, longevity and sustainability.

First and foremost, Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant is the ONLY cleaning product approved for use when cleaning a Duchateau hard-wax oiled floor. Products containing alcohol are not approved for use as alcohol – often used as a drying agent – will break down the vital waxes and oils of your Duchateau hard-wax oil floor and damage them. Please read all instructions thoroughly before starting.

*IMPORTANT: Your Quality Engineered Duchateau Hardwood Floor comes fully finished from the factory with our Natural oil. As a result, it is not required to apply Duchateau Maintenance Oil immediately following installation, though regular oiling still applies. It is recommended, however, that you clean your floors after installation using only Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner and Protectant and maintain the floor with Duchateau Maintenance Oil as needed.*

## Daily Cleaning

For regular daily upkeep of your floor, a simple sweeping or vacuuming should be all that is required. A floor vacuum with a hardwood floor attachment or one in which the beater brush can be turned off must be used to avoid scratching or damaging the floor.

## Weekly/Biweekly Cleaning

For regular cleaning or to properly prepare your floor for oiling, Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner is required. This is a concentrate that requires dilution with warm water. We recommend a 2-bucket cleaning process for optimal results. The first bucket will contain the diluted cleaner and the second bucket will be used to wring out your sponge mop of the dirty water. We recommend the use of a sponge mop with a sponge head that can be wrung out. Remember the diluted concentrate should never pool on the surface, nor should the mop be more than damp. EXCESS MOISTURE CAN DAMAGE THE FLOOR.

To begin:

1. Vacuum or sweep the floor prior to cleaning.
2. Shake the cleaner bottle well.
3. Mix two (2) caps per gallon to bucket of warm (not hot) water.
4. Apply cleaner to floor using a kitchen mop. Wring the mop out well so not to soak the floor with water as this could cause damage to the floor.
5. Wring out the dirty water from the mop into the second bucket. This will prolong keeping the water in your cleaner bucket from getting dirty. You will need to swap out the cleaner solution when the water becomes dirty.
6. For heavily soiled floors, the floor can be rinsed using the kitchen mop with a bucket of clear water only. This step is not required; however, it will help remove any residual dirt.
7. Allow the floor to dry thoroughly before allowing foot traffic or applying maintenance oil.

## Persistent Stains or Marks

If Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant does not remove individual marks or stains from the wood, Duchateau Maintenance Oil can be used as a stain remover. Mix the Duchateau Maintenance Oil and apply a very small amount to the stain and rub gently with a cloth. If the stain is not removed, gentle use of a non-abrasive scrub pad, such as a Scotch-Brite® scrub sponge, can be used in place of a cloth. Rub in the direction of the grain. Please note aggressive use of a scrub pad with oiled floors may lift the color from the floor.

## Annual Maintenance and Conditioning

Depending on the environmental conditions and amount of traffic, annual application of Duchateau Maintenance Oil is required to moisturize and condition the floor. In dryer climates and on areas that receive a higher amount of traffic, more frequent application may be necessary to properly maintain your floor. The Duchateau Maintenance Oil benefits the floor in several ways.

## Conditioning

The open, porous nature of Duchateau Hardwood Floors allows the wood to absorb and/or release moisture (depending on environmental conditions). Duchateau Maintenance Oil will help moisturize the floor.

## Protection

The wax element of the Maintenance Oil works similarly to the wax coating on the paint of a car. It provides an extra layer of protection from contaminants that may have spilled on or may come in contact with the floor.

## Restoration

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The Oil element of the Maintenance Oil may help brighten the natural graining of the wood and may enhance the color. Every situation is unique and there is no set timeframe, but indicators such as when the floor stops beading water, shows differences in the sheen, appears to have lost its vibrancy, all indicate that the application of Maintenance Oil is required. This could be annually or several years depending on the unique conditions of the site.

As wood floors age, high traffic areas tend to wear more than lower traffic areas. Duchateau Maintenance Oil may be applied to those high traffic areas with greater frequency without having to re-coat the entire floor. However, the entire floor should be maintained annually as needed. Regular application of Maintenance Oil will provide longer-lasting protection and keep your floors looking beautiful for many years to come.

## Application of Duchateau Maintenance Oil

Shake and stir the can of Duchateau Maintenance Oil well. There are wax solids that settle in the oil that need to be blended for proper application. ONE CAN WILL COVER APPROXIMATELY 750 SQUARE FEET OF FLOORING WHEN PROPERLY APPLIED. Pour the oil into a container or paint tray. The oil can be applied to the floor with a clean, lint-free rag, a hand sponge, or a standard sponge mop. Dip the rag, sponge or sponge mop into the oil, and wring out well. Apply the oil in the direction of the grain in a thin, even coat to a manageable area. Immediately wipe the area with a clean cotton rag to remove all excess oil.

While applying, there should not be any pooling of Duchateau Maintenance Oil. When applied properly, the floor should have a slight sheen but should not appear wet. Never pour directly from the can on to the floor.

If coverage is less than approximately 750 square feet, the product is not spread thin enough. This can result in problems requiring having to buff off excess product carefully by hand or with an orbital buffing machine. Spread as thin as possible and work in small areas to prevent excess product from setting on the flooring surface before it is properly spread.

Keep from walking on the floor for 12 hours or more to allow wax to fully harden. If it is necessary to walk on the floors prior to drying, please put paper booties over shoes to prevent leaving footprints in the wax. Keep furniture off of freshly oiled floors for 12 to 18 hours. Keep rugs off of freshly oiled floors for 48 hours.

For general homeowner/end-user maintenance, the Duchateau Maintenance Oil needs only be reapplied to areas that receive more traffic. With proper application, it will not alter the color of the floor and can be applied to small areas as needed or used as a spot or stain remover without needing to reapply the product to the entire floor.

## White Color Maintenance - Application of Duchateau White Maintenance

### Oil (PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY)

Over time, Duchateau white oiled floors may require an application of Duchateau White Maintenance Oil every few years to renew the floor's white appearance. Use of Duchateau Maintenance Oil-Clear is still recommended for regular maintenance of all Duchateau floors, including white oiled floors. WARNING: Use of this product on any other type of Duchateau floor may cause significant discoloration or damage. Duchateau White Maintenance Oil should only be applied by an experienced finisher who is familiar with wood stains.

### Available Care Products

#### *Duchateau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant*

Application: For the regular upkeep of your oiled Duchateau® wood floors, our specially formulated Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant promises you a thoroughly clean and nurtured floor, all without the hassle and headache of multiple products, all in one safe, environmentally friendly woodcare product. One bottle (33.8 fluid ounces) cleans 4,000 square feet.

#### *Duchateau Maintenance Oil-Clear Formula*

Application: To keep a lasting, hardy brilliance in the finish of your hard-wax oiled floors, periodic application of Duchateau's Maintenance Oil - Clear will rejuvenate the surface oil coat of your floors and keep them looking great and relatively impermeable to foreign contaminants. One can (33.8 fluid ounces) maintains approximately 750 square feet.