A Word About Wax

Before refinishing floors previously "finished" or maintained with wax, the wax must be completely removed from the floor. Any old residue of wax or embedded wax left between the cracks of the floor board or embedded in wood grain, will cause the new finish to have slow drying, poor adhesion, loss of gloss and limited durability. Wax residue left on floors causes the majority of problems when floors are refinished.

To outlast other finishes, Fabulon® Floor Coating Products do not need waxing. They are easier to maintain and far less slippery. Presence of wax can also create problems when recoating floors in the future.

Furniture

Under normal drying conditions, furniture can be returned to rooms within 24-36 hours.
Care should be used in placement of furniture as final, complete cure of finishes requires up to two weeks.

Care & Cleaning of Wood Floors

Wood floors are extremely durable. In many instances, wood flooring, in both commercial and residential use, is still in service after 100 years.

Common sense must be exercised when using your wood floors. Walking in high heel shoes can cause dents in the wood. Pets' untrimmed nails can scratch floors. A little care given to your floors will result in your enjoyment of beautiful floors for many years.

Harsh alkali cleaners may damage the finish and/or the floor and should not be used. Never use excessive water or cleaner on wood floors. Even though Fabulon® Floor Coating Products are very water resistant, water can seep into the open cracks, then expand or contract the wood causing any finish to break loose from the wood, resulting in "white spots", chipping, peeling, etc. Remember water is the enemy of wood. Do not use excessive amounts of water, wipe up spills as soon as possible.

Most finishing materials, adhesives and many cleaners and thinners contain solvents which represent a fire hazard if used under improper conditions. Additionally, they can constitute a health hazard when used carelessly or without proper ventilation. Before use, therefore all precautionary labeling on each container of finishing material, adhesive, cleaner and/or thinner should be read carefully. Make sure that you have conformed to all conditions for safe use.

Our Products

Crystal® Poly Acrylic Wood Finish

The perfect re-coat for dull, worn, dingy-looking wood floors. Non-flammable and self-priming Crystal® Poly Acrylic Wood Finish can be applied over wood stains, existing finishes or newly sanded wood floors. It provides your floor with a beautiful, light, natural gloss or satin finish that won't yellow with age, plus has excellent gloss retention and durability. Tested and used on bowling lanes, this multi-use product is also excellent for use on wood floors, furniture, paneling and cabinets. Crystal® Poly Acrylic Wood Finish goes on quickly with a t-bar floor coater or pad applicator or good quality synthetic brush. Practically odourless, dries fast in just 1 to 2 hours, and equipment cleans easily with soap and water. Easy to maintain and blend-patch. Available in gloss and satin lustre.

Fabulon® Heavy Duty Polyurethane

Derived from the latest concepts in polymeric chemistry. Exceptionally high polyurethane resin content assures maximum durability, excellent body and long lasting no wax finish - needs no waxing. Provides an easy-to-care for "coat of protection" on wood floors. Only the best polyurethanes are formulated for use on floors. Available in gloss, semi-gloss and satin lustre.

Product Cautions:
Harmful or fatal if swallowed. Harmful if inhaled. Eye, skin and respiratory tract irritant. Combustible! Before using products carefully read all precautionary labeling on all products.

For product and/or technical enquiries contact the Fabulon Help Line, (800) 364-1359.

Fabulon

Premium Wood Floor Finishes

How to Finish Wood Floors, Old or New

Preparing the Surface

To prepare the surface for old and new floors you will need the following equipment.
   A. Drum Sander/Belt Sander
   B. Disk edge sander (edger)
   C. Hand scraper (for corners etc.)
   D. Abrasive paper: disks and sheets - (20 grit) - (40 grit) - (60 grit)
      - (100 grit)
   E. Hand power sander or pole sander
   F. Commercial vacuum cleaner
   G. Safety goggles
Note: Floor finishing equipment is available through most tool rental stores.

Before the floors are sanded, these steps should be observed.
1. Wear clean soft soled shoes.
2. Remove all furniture, pictures, shades etc. from the room.
3. Fasten loose boards, replace broken boards, countersink nail heads where needed.
4. Remove base boards. Although not necessary, this makes it possible to sand close to the wall. When removing, be careful not to break moldings, and identify where they are removed from to make replacement easier.
5. For ventilation open all windows, close doors of adjoining rooms, and block off all heat registers and cold air returns.
6. Check the thickness of your wood floor. This can only be done by measuring the wood floor where you have removed the molding or around a cold air return opening. Most hardwood flooring is 3/4 inch thick and can be sanded and refinished many times. Thinner floors 1/2 inch to 3/8 inch thickness should be sanded with caution, because repeated sanding could wear through the wood.

WARNING! Removal of old paint by sanding, scraping or other means may generate dust or fumes that contain lead. Exposure to lead dust or fumes may cause brain damage or other adverse health effects, especially in children or pregnant women. Controlling exposure to lead or other hazardous substances requires the use of proper protective equipment such as a properly fitted respirator (NIOSH approved) and proper containment and cleanup.

Basic Sanding Operations

IMPORTANT: When starting either the drum sander or the edger, they should be started tilted so the sandpaper is off of the floor and then slowly placed on the floor when moving. Never stop movement of the machines you are sanding with, when the drum or disk is in contact with the floor. Doing so may cause swirl marks and damage the floor. Also, be sure the drum sander you are using is designed to sand in two directions. Some drum sanders are designed only to be sanded in one direction.
* Fabulon® Floor Coating Products does not recommend the use of chemical strippers to remove floor finishes.

Old Floors

Chart of Sanding Operations for Old Floors		
FLOOR	**OPERATION**	**TYPE OF PAPER**
Covered with varnish, shellac, paint, etc.	First sanding*	(20)
	Second sanding	(40)
	Third sanding	(60)
	Finish sanding	(100)

* For thinner floors or worn finishes start with 40 grit and drop to 20 grit if necessary.

First Sanding

The purpose of this first sanding operation is to remove the old finish down to the bare wood. On old floors where most of the finish is worn away, or, if the finish on the floors is very thin, you can skip the first sanding with the coarse 20 grit sandpaper and move right on to the recommended second sanding in this section.

The edger is applied in a circular motion and then can be drawn straight back along the wall for another pass. This procedure is continued all along the floor edge adjacent to each wall. The edger is also used to sand in hard-to-work-in areas like closets.

Pass the drum sander slowly over the floor with the grain of the wood. That is, sand lengthwise with the floor boards, starting in the middle of the floor and moving forward, move the sander directly to the wall as demonstrated in the illustration. Then pull the sander backwards so you sand each pass twice. Each complete pass, back and forth, should overlap the previous pass by 2 to 4 inches. When first 1/2 of the room is completed, turn around and repeat the same operation on the unfinished second half of the room. Do NOT oversand.

Second & Third Sanding

The purpose of this operation is to eliminate the roughness caused by the coarse sandpaper used to remove the old finish. Change to a medium 40 grit paper in the machine. Moving at a slow to medium rate of walking speed, sand with the wood grain in the same pattern you used in Step 1 for both the edger and the drum sander. Repeat with 60 grit.

Final Sanding

This operation is vital. Its purpose is to obtain a perfectly smooth surface, a primary requisite for a first class job. Though the floor may appear smooth enough after the second sanding. This fine-sanding step is most essential. Don't skip it. Change to 100 grit paper in both the sander and the edger and repeat sanding steps on the entire floor as before.

New Floors

Chart of Sanding Operations for New Floors (Unfinished)
(Use closed coat sandpaper only)

Regardless of species, wood flooring when received from the lumber yard is milled but not sanded. Thus new flooring must be sanded after installation to prepare the surface for correct finishing. Proper sanding in finishing new floors is just as important as it is in refinishing old floors.

FLOOR	OPERATION	CONDITION OF FLOORS	GRADE OF SAND PAPER
Hardwood • Oak • Maple • Beech • Birch	First sanding	Uneven floor	40 grit
		Ordinary floor	60 grit
	Final sanding		100 grit
Softwood • Pine • Fir	First sanding	Uneven floor	40 grit
		Ordinary floor	60 grit
	Final sanding		100 grit

First Sanding

The purpose of the first sanding is to obtain a level, even surface. Where floor is in good condition, use 60 grit paper. Where floor is noticeably uneven, use 40 grit. NOTE: Never use open coat paper when sanding new floors. Use the sanding pattern as directed in the basic sanding operations section.

Final Sanding

The purpose of the final sanding is to obtain a perfectly smooth surface. Always use 100 grit paper for this operation.

Removing Sanding Blemishes

After all sanding steps have been completed, carefully fully inspect floor, especially the area where the edger and the drum sander came together. Any rough areas here can be smoothed by using a power hand sander or pole sander with 80 or 100 grit paper. Also, any swirl marks left in other areas of the floor can also be removed by using this equipment. Careful inspection of the floor at this point is important as any defects will be highlighted by the finish when it is applied.

Finishing Steps

You will need the following equipment for finishing
A. Lambswool applicator   B. Safety goggles   C. T-bar
D. Pad applicator   E. Tack rag   F. Commercial vacuum cleaner

Dust

When sanding is completed, remove all dust from floor, window ledges and other surfaces, using a commercial vacuum cleaner. Do the final cleanup by wiping all surfaces with a tack rag. To minimize dust during sanding operation always empty the bag on the equipment before it becomes one third to half full or when you see a trail of sawdust being left. Empty the bag into a container. This container should be stored outside the job site to prevent the possibility of spontaneous combustion.

Filling Nail Holes

After the final sanding, all nail holes should be filled, using Minwax® Stainable Wood Filler. This filler should be sanded before it is dry. This technique will blend sanding dust into the filler keeping the natural wood colour.

Choosing the Right Finish

Good preparation demands the right material be used for a satisfactory floor. Having finished all of the proper surface preparation and cleanup, 90% of your work is now completed. The floor is ready for the new finish. Whatever your preference, water-reducible, or heavy duty polyurethane there's a Fabulon® Floor Coating Product just right for you. Carefully read all directions on the label for proper application and usage.

Recoating Existing Floor Finishes

Many times all that is required to make your floors look "new" again is to apply a coat of your favourite Fabulon® Floor Coating Product to your existing floor finish. First dust mop the surface, remove all traces of wax, polish, dirt and grease by using a commercial floor cleaner solution of mineral spirits. Wipe surface dry with clean cloth. Remove all shine from the surface by sanding with the grain using 80 or 100 grit sandpaper. A good bond of new finish is obtained when there is no shine left on the surface after sanding. Vacuum up dust, then tack rag surface to complete dust removal. Your floors are now ready for a renewal coat of finish.