

How to...

Oil by hand a hardwood floor prepared first with Wood Lye.

You will need the items listed below. Our quantity recommendations are based on experience of the average floor – if your floor is very old and porous then increase the quantities and vice versa for dense wood types.

<u>Product name</u>	<u><10m²</u>	<u><25m²</u>	<u><50m²</u>	<u>>50m²</u>
<u>Stage 1: preparation with Wood Lye</u>				
Dane Care Flat-Mop	1	1	1	1
WoCa Wood Lye	2 ltr	4 ltr	7.5ltr	1 ltr per 7m ²
Blue Nylon Pad	1	1	1	1
<u>Stage 2: first oiling</u>				
Dane Care Flat-Mop from stage 1				
Your choice of oil	1 ltr	2.5 ltr	5 ltr	1 ltr per 10m ²
- probably white Wood Floor Oil if working by hand. White Master Oil is also possible, bu designed for machine application. Extra White Oil for the very lightest finish. Using a natural version of oil over Wood Lye will give a less light finish. High Solid Oil if wanting minimal exposure to solvents.				
Absorbent Cloths	2	5	10	5 per 25m ²
<u>Stage 3: second oiling</u>				
Blue Nylon pad	2	2	2	2
Flat-Mop from Stage 1				
Your choice of oil - as above	1 ltr	1 ltr	2 ltr	1 ltr per 40m ²
Medium, green Patina Disks	1	2	3	1 per 15m ²
Absorbent Cloths	2	5	10	5 per 25m ²
<u>Subsequent cleaning</u>				
Natural Soap, white version	2.5 ltr	2.5 ltr	2.5 ltr	2.5 ltr
Flat-Mop from Stage 1 & 2				
Additional Mop Head	0	0	1	1 extra per 25m ²

Process Summary – Start with a flat and even sanded floor. During stage 1 you will treat the floor with a wet application of Wood Lye and damp wipe it to ensure no excess residue remains as it dries. Allow to dry in overnight. In stage 2 you buff-in the bulk of the protective oil resins into the wood surface. If you have chosen a white version of oil then more white pigments are also added to the wood. You will remove excess oil with cloths so that the surface is damp not wet with oil. During this stage you will also remove an amount of Lye from the wood surface and reduce slightly the whiteness of the finish. During Stage 3 you will repeat the oiling with the same oil as in Stage 2, but whilst wet with oil you will rub down with Medium Patina Disks to smooth the surface. Dry excess oil from the surface with cloths to give the final appearance.

Preparation with Wood Lye: Day 1 / Stage 1

It is our assumption that your wood is correctly sanded before you start the finishing process.

Wood Lye is an alkali, pigmented solution that ensures the floor will remain light after it is finished and will further lighten as it is exposed to sunlight.

Note – you can use Wood Lye on any wood type, both soft and hard. There is a white and a grey version.

The application equipment you require for Wood Lye is limited to a nylon pad under our Flat-Mop and perhaps a cloth for getting into tight corners.

- 1) On the original WoCa instructions you will see they wish you to wash the floor with a solution of IWC 8 hours prior to the application of Wood Lye. This opens the wood grain to the lye and helps achieve a more even colour. It is not entirely necessary to do this and you can simply prepare the floor by cleaning dust from the floor using a vacuum.
- 2) Pour all the Wood Lye into your bucket and ensure no solids remain in the canister. Stir thoroughly. If necessary cut open the canister to remove final residue.
- 3) Apply a generous coat to the floor. Spread with the Blue Pad under the Flat-Mop at a rate of 7 to 10 m² per litre. Brush along the grain and check that all the wood is saturated with solution. Leave to dry for 8 hours at 20 deg.C, preferably overnight.
- 4) After 30 minutes or so the Wood Lye will have started to dry in to the surface. At this point, wash the surface down with IWC solution and cloths to dry it. The objective is to wash from the surface any excess Lye and further improve colour evenness. Do not abrade the dry surface or buff it with nylon pads.
- 5) Before moving onto Stage 2 ensure the floor is thoroughly dry: 8 hours at 20 deg.C prior to oil finishing and 1 hour prior to soap finishing.

The 1st oiling process: Day 2 / Stage 2

The first application of oil will determine how deeply the colour and oil is absorbed. It is important, therefore, to do this correctly. By the end of this process the wood will have absorbed all the oil it can take and you will have removed all of the excess. Under no circumstances finish your work before all wet oil is removed from the surface.

1) Preparation: Do not apply oil until the Wood Lye application has completely dried-out and you are certain you have sufficient materials and time to complete the job in hand. As guidance you will need 1 hour per 20m². Wear old cloths and shoes that you do not value. You will be walking on wood wet with oil and handling oil soaked cloths so the chance of dirtying your clothes is very high. Oil resistant gloves are recommended – read the Technical Datasheets for full safety information. Regarding skin contact they say: ‘Skin contact: The product may cause irritation in case of skin contact.’

Make sure you have a water-filled container into which you can place oil-saturated cloths to prevent them from starting to cure and potentially self-combust before they are disposed of.

2) Application: Stir the canister well to ensure all the white pigments are in suspension.

Spread oil across the bulk of the floor at a rate of 10 m² per litre using a Blue Nylon Pad under your Flat-Mop. Do not use the Flat-Mop to take oil closer than 10cm to the skirting boards or adjoining surfaces.

If the floor has large gaps then use a brush. You may also use a roller – there is no one way that is best for applying oil, simply apply an even, wet layer.

Oil around the room edges using both a fine brush and a cloth. The brush gets close up to the skirtings and the cloth can be used for the remaining areas.

3) Buffing in: Let the oil absorb for 20 minutes. Add more oil if the floor is very absorbent. Buff the oil into the wood using the Blue Nylon Pad fixed under the Flat-Mop frame.

If you find any potential splinters in the wood then glue them down.

4) Cleaning away all excess oil: Immediately after you finish buffing, use cleaning cloths to wipe ALL the oil from the wood. There is no easy way of doing this by hand and requires considerable ‘elbow grease’. A polishing machine dramatically simplifies this part of the work, but is probably not worth hiring in if the floor is less than 40m². Work in strips towards your exit point from the room checking each strip

as you go that it is only damp and that there is no uneven 'liquid' oil that will subsequently cure and glisten. Do not walk on the wood for at least 12 hours.

Warning! Oil-saturated cloths can spontaneously combust as the oil cures. Place in water after use. Dispose of them in a sealed metal container filled with water.

The 2nd oiling process: stage 3/ day 3

Probably this will be on day 3, but can be delayed till final decoration work has been completed. Protect the floor 100% if there is to be a break between Stage 2 and Stage 3. If you have left the floor under protection then wash it with a solution of IWC before oiling it.

Your new wooden surface has now been treated with sufficient oils to combine resins into the wooden surface and create a wear-resistant surface.

It still requires, however, a final finishing process.

Rub the same oil as used in Stage 2 into the entire wooden surface with a cloth. Apply only enough to dampen the floor surface (1 litre should cover 40 m²). Fold an absorbent cloth into quarter its size, wet with oil and use the Flat-Mop to oil the floor.

The surface should be wet enough to lubricate the work of the Patina Disks.

Place two medium grade, blue Patina Disks under a Blue Nylon Pad gripped by the Flat-Mop. Patina Disks have an abrasive value of c. 5,000 grit and are intended to smooth the wood grain post washing. The more pressure you can apply the better, since the disk is designed to de-nib the surface rather than actually sand it.

It is worth mentioning that Patina Disks work best when under a buffing machine, since the speed and pressure develops the maintenance oil into a paste that is very effective at blocking the wood pores and adding to the surfaces dirt resistance.

Patina Disks can only be used on one day unless you undertake to clean them post oiling. This can be done by using an old toothbrush and concentrated detergent to degrease the abrasive surface.

Cleaning away all excess oil

Immediately after you finish smoothing use absorbent cloths to wipe ALL the oil from the wood. The result is a damp surface from which all 'liquid' oil is removed. Do not walk on the wood for at least 4 hours.

Warning! Oil-saturated cloths can spontaneously combust as the oil cures. Place in water after use. Dispose of them in a sealed metal container filled with water.

The floor finishing is now complete. Leave to dry overnight before walking on it and do not damp clean for 7 days.

Subsequent cleaning

Because you have prepared the floor with Wood Lye you must use the white version of the natural soap to keep it light in the future. This is regardless of which oil you have used to finish your floor.

Please choose the cleaning instructions for white oiled floors.

If the floor later starts to appear worn then maintain after referring to instructions 'How to reoil an aged floor'. Wet cleaning is always an important part of the maintenance work as it removes soap residues prior to re-oiling. Reoiling can be done with your original oil or maintenance oil.

The Flat-Mop kit simplifies damp cleaning of your floor, saves soap and stops the application of excess water to the floor.