

TIMBER CARE & MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Once your timber floor has been masterfully sealed or coated with Ecoshield products, its longevity relies on a proactive maintenance regimen. Timber is a natural, living material that responds to its environment. By incorporating these industry-standard care practices, you will preserve the structural integrity and timeless beauty of your investment for decades to come.

1. Post-Installation & Initial Curing Precautions

The initial days after your floor has been coated are critical to ensuring the finish cures to its maximum hardness and durability.

- **Initial Curing (First 24 to 72 Hours):** Keep all foot traffic completely off the floor for the first 24 hours. An ideal curing period of 72 hours is highly recommended before resuming normal activity.
- **Light Use Windows:** Under optimal drying conditions—specifically 25°C and 50% relative humidity—very light foot traffic may be permissible after 4 to 6 hours. To prevent early scuffing or microscopic disruptions to the settling film, wear clean socks only and strictly avoid shoes.
- **The First Week Restrictions:** Do not use any wet or damp cleaning methods, and do not introduce any liquid cleaners to the floor for the first 7 days. If cleaning is absolutely necessary during the first week, use a dry, static microfiber mop only.
- **Furniture & Mat Placement Delay:** Wait at least 72 hours before placing protective mats on the floor to allow the seal to fully breathe and cure. Never drag furniture across the newly finished surface. Always lift items completely into place.



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2. Daily Care & Preventative Maintenance

Daily habits dictate how well a timber floor finish ages. Small particles of dirt, grit, and sand act exactly like sandpaper underfoot, prematurely wearing away the protective coating.

- **Dry-First Maintenance:** Regularly sweep or dust-mop floors daily using a static microfibre fringe mop. Microfibre picks up and locks away abrasive grit rather than pushing it around.
- **The Vacuum Warning:** We strongly advise against using standard vacuum cleaners. Worn-out bristles or rotating beater bars can expose metal parts or hard plastics that easily gouge or scratch timber finishes. If a vacuum must be used, ensure it features a dedicated, soft hard-floor brush head and that the beater bar is turned completely off.
- **Immediate Spill Mitigation:** Liquids are timber's greatest adversary. Promptly clean up food, beverage, or water spills to prevent staining, coating discolouration, or moisture from seeping into the board joints—which can cause localised swelling or warping.
- **Furniture Safeguards:** Ensure every piece of furniture in direct contact with the floor is fitted with heavy-duty felt protective pads. Inspect these pads quarterly; replace them immediately when worn or embedded with trapped grit. Avoid rubber-backed furniture feet or castors, as rubber can chemically react with polyurethane finishes and cause permanent discolouration.



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3. Weekly Deep Cleaning Routine

- **Execute Daily Protocols:** Begin by thoroughly dry-mopping the floor to remove all loose debris and dust.
- **Controlled Damp Mopping:** For a deeper clean, damp-mop the floor using a solution of Ecoshield Eco Clean.
- **Crucial Rule:** Timber and excess water do not mix. Never use a traditional wet mop or bucket system that floods the floor. Use a well-wrung microfibre mop or a specialised spray-mop system to lightly mist the surface. The floor should dry within a few minutes of mopping.
- **Handling Stubborn Marks:** For black heel marks, scuffs, or sticky spots, apply a small amount of undiluted Eco Clean directly onto a soft microfiber cloth (such as a Chux wipe) and gently buff out the blemish.
- **Surface Inspection:** Take time during the weekly clean to inspect high-traffic zones (hallways, kitchens) for early signs of surface wear. Detecting localised finish thinning early allows for minor touch-ups before the raw timber becomes exposed and damaged.



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4. Long-Term Environmental Protection

Timber is hygroscopic, meaning it continuously absorbs and releases moisture depending on its environment. Protecting it requires controlling external elements.

- **Microclimate Control:** To minimise the natural expansion, contraction, gapping, or cupping of your timber boards, aim to maintain a stable interior climate. The ideal residential range is a room temperature between 18°C to 25°C and a relative humidity level between 40% and 65%. Use humidifiers in dry winters and dehumidifiers or air conditioning during humid summers to stabilise the space.
- **Strategic Zone Defense (Zones of Cleanliness):** Place large, high-quality walk-off mats at all external and internal entryways. A good mat zone should ideally be long enough to catch two to four footsteps, trapping dirt, moisture, and outdoor chemicals before they touch your timber.
- **UV & Sunlight Management:** Direct, prolonged exposure to sunlight and UV rays will naturally alter the colour of timber. Utilise blinds, sheer curtains, or UV-resistant window films to shield your flooring during peak sunlight hours. Periodically rearrange rugs and heavy furniture to ensure the timber ages and changes shade evenly.
- **Strict Chemical Prohibitions:** Never clean your Ecoshield coated floor with steam mops, as the pressurised, hot steam forces moisture between the joints, destroying both the finish and the wood structure. Additionally, never use household detergents, abrasive powders, ammonia, methylated spirits, or vinegar solutions, as these will permanently dull, etch, or degrade the protective topcoat.



www.ecoshield.com.au



info@ecoshield.com.au



08 8185 7148