

PARLA[®]

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS



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After installation and the first cleaning, your Parla flooring is ready for use. When installed correctly and used and maintained as instructed, the flooring will last for decades. Important instructions for maintaining your parquet floor:

- Ensure that the relative humidity and temperature conditions are suitable for the parquet.
- Protect the parquet from excess wear (for example in hallways).
- Clean the parquet regularly (in connection with your normal weekly cleaning).

Wood is a hygroscopic material, i.e. it absorbs and loses moisture according to the humidity and temperature of the air. In practice, this means that the volume of the parquet floor increases as the relative humidity increases, and respectively, decreases as the relative humidity decreases. Relative humidity is the most important factor influencing the functionality of the parquet floor. Optimal humidity for a parquet floor is 35–60% RH and the temperature is +18–24°C. Not following these recommendations will always strain the parquet and weaken the functionality of the floor. This is why Parla recommends that room temperature and relative humidity are monitored by using a digital combination meter in all seasons.

Marks of use are part of a wood floor's natural character. The degree and types of use must be considered in the maintenance of both wax oiled and lacquered floorings. In more-used rooms, we recommend protecting the floor with loose carpets, for example. To avoid scratches, it is recommended to attach felt pads to the ends of furniture legs.

Maintaining and caring for your Parla floor is easy. Just follow the simple instructions presented below:

- Maintain appropriate humidity (RH 35–60%) and temperature conditions (+18–24°C) in all seasons. In humid seasons (summer), adequate ventilation is required, and in dry seasons (winter), adequate humidity must be ensured by using, for example, a humidifier.
- Prevent dust, sand and gravel from entering the house by placing door mats on both sides of front doors.
- In the entryway, place plastic mats under shoes to prevent water damage.
- Vacuum-clean and mop the floor regularly to prevent dirt from sticking to the parquet surface.
- Use only a small amount of water in cleaning – the parquet surface must be dry within a minute of mopping.
- Avoid using strong detergents, since they can dissolve the protecting wax oil or lacquer layer on the parquet.
- Avoid using excess amounts of detergent, since otherwise a detergent layer will accumulate on the surface of the parquet and collect dirt.
- Remove stains immediately.
- Attach felt pads to the ends of furniture legs and cover the floor under office chairs equipped with wheels.

MAINTENANCE OF LACQUERED SURFACES

Remove sand and dust from the floor with a vacuum cleaner or brush. If necessary, wipe the floor with a well-wrung cloth or mop. Use lukewarm water, to which can be added a detergent intended for floor cleaning, and follow the directions for use of the detergent. The use of strong detergents is to be avoided. Wax or polishes containing wax must not be used.



Removal of stains

Wipe up all spills immediately. Stains which cannot be removed by wiping require different cleaning agents.

Type of stain -> Cleaning agent

- fruit, juice, milk, cream, soft drinks, beer, wine, coffee, tea -> synthetic detergent
- chocolate, grease, oil, shoe polish, heel marks, tar, pitch -> mineral turpentine
- typewriter ribbon, duplicating wax, correction fluid, ball-point pen, ink, lipstick -> denatured alcohol
- blood -> cold water

Source: Finnish Floor Covering Association

Floor repairs

In case the floor surface is worn or scratched after use, it can be re-sanded and varnished or oiled again.

MAINTENANCE OF WAX OILED SURFACES

Regular vacuum-cleaning and mopping prevents dirt from sticking to the parquet surface. When required, it is possible to order a comprehensive maintenance set for wax oiled floors from Parla. The set contains the following: OSMO Color Wash and Care, cleaning and conditioning wax spray and tinted or clear wax oil for correcting small scratch marks.

If the surface of the wood floor has been damaged, for example, when moving furniture, you can apply OSMO Color wax oil on damaged areas. Detailed instructions for correcting scratch marks and larger damages:

Correcting scratch marks

Clean the scratched area with a soft small brush (e.g. nail brush) in order to remove all dust and dirt.

- Uncoloured floor: Treat the scratched area with a clear wax oil by using, for example, a cotton bud.
- Colour-treated floor: Treat the scratched surface with Osmo Color wood wax of a suitable colour by using, for example, a cotton bud. In correcting the colour, you must also consider how the colour changes with time and remember that the new corrected area may not look the same as the surrounding floor surface even if the tone used was the same as the tone of the original treatment.

Wipe off the excess wax oil after 2–3 minutes from the scratched area (if necessary, repeat the treatment until the surface is good or, in a tinted flooring, the tone is the required one).

Allow the corrected area to dry for approx. 1 day and finalise the surface by applying clear wax oil. Allow the treated area to dry for at least 12 hours.

For correcting larger damaged areas, please contact a professional.

Partial repair of colour-treated floors:

In oil-waxed floors UV-hardened wax oil protects the colour treatment of the parquet and the wood itself. Thus, undesired wear on the floor can be prevented by maintaining the clear surface layer in good condition. By following the instructions given above you can maintain your floor in good condition for years. If the colour surface of the floor



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is damaged, it can be repaired by sanding and wax oiling the damaged area again (the final surface must match the sanding of the surrounding area):

- White floors: apply a very thin layer of white tone (e.g. Osmo Color No. 3041, 3040, 3111 according to the shade of the floor) on the damaged area and wipe the surface with a cloth in order to obtain a tone that matches the surrounding area. Allow the surface to dry. Next, apply a layer of tinted Osmo Color Hardwax Oil No. 3041 with a natural bristle brush or a lint-free cloth. Allow to dry in accordance with the instructions.
- Dark floors: apply a very thin layer of wood wax (of the same tone as the floor) and wipe the treated area with a cloth in order to obtain the desired tone. Next, apply another thin layer of coloured Osmo Color Hardwax Oil No. 3062 with a natural bristle brush or a lint-free cloth. Allow to dry in accordance with the instructions.

Repairing a parquet flooring that has been treated with transparent tone requires extra caution, since the corrections will be much more noticeable. It is important that the new and old treatment are partially overlapping in order to mix the pigments and achieve a good result. If the flooring is heavily worn, we recommend sanding and re-treating the whole floor instead of correcting only the damaged area. In this case, we recommend contacting a professional.

Note! The surface structure of brushed wood flooring will change if the surface is sanded.

Treating the whole floor:

When the floor is heavily worn and dirt has stuck to the surface, it is necessary to treat the whole floor. Start the treatment by cleaning the floor carefully by using Osmo Color Wash and Care (or similar neutral detergent). When the surface is clean and dry, repair the scratches and worn areas according to the instructions given in the section discussing correction of scratches. Allow to dry and treat the whole floor as follows:

- White floors: apply a very thin layer of white Osmo Color Hardwax Oil No. 3041 according to the instructions given on the product. Please note that the layer must be very thin and thus one litre of this wax is sufficient to treat an area of at least 50 m² depending on the condition of the surface. Allow to dry in accordance with the instructions.
- Dark floors: apply a very thin layer of clear Osmo Color Hardwax Oil No. 3062 according to the instructions given on the product. Please note that the layer must be very thin and thus one litre of this wax is sufficient to treat an area of at least 50 m² depending on the condition of the surface. Allow to dry in accordance with the instructions.

PROTECTION OF THE FLOOR

Doormats should be put on both sides of an exterior door to prevent dust from getting inside. To prevent scratching of the floor, it is advisable to put pieces of felt under the legs of furniture. Radiators and other apparatus containing water must be in good order to avoid water damage. Wipe up water that gets onto the floor and remove stains as quickly as possible. Regular ventilation and keeping the relative humidity of the air right and as constant as possible (RH 35 – 60 %), particularly during the period when the heating is on, e.g. by means of a humidifier, help to maintain the condition of a parquet floor. If necessary, board parquet can be resanded and refinished.

THE DARKENING AND LIGHTENING OF WOOD SPECIES

Wood is a natural living material and the shades of all timber species change over time. In particular pine become darker, while heat-treated wood becomes lighter with exposure to sunlight.

