

Hardwood Flooring Finishes

The days of having to wax and scrub your hardwood floors are pretty much gone forever. Manufacturers of pre-finished wood floors have developed sophisticated techniques to quickly apply hard, durable, urethane based finishes right at the factory. By using ultra violet lights, the prefinished wood planks can have several coats of urethane applied within a matter of a few minutes. This is helping make hardwood floors both more affordable, and much easier to maintain. Recently, the hardwood flooring manufacturers have begun to add small chips of Aluminum Oxide directly to the floor's finish which dramatically increases the life of the urethane finish.

Most factory finished hardwood floors have several coats of finish applied to the wood's surface. As example, some wood floors are applying 6-10 coats of a ultra-violet (UV) cured urethane over the stained wood finish layer.

The job-site urethane finishes have been improved dramatically as well and will add years of performance to your wood floors.

This does not mean you should wash your floor with a wet mop, but it does mean that these wood floors won't watermark like the old waxed, strip wood floors. The UV cured urethane wood finishes are extremely durable and much more abrasion resistant than waxed floors.

UV-cured – these floors are finished at the factory and the polyurethane finish is cured with Ultra Violet lights instead of using heat.

Polyurethane – A clear, tough and durable finish that is applied as a wear layer.

Acrylic-urethane – Has a slightly different chemical make up than polyurethane, but with similar benefits.

Ceramic – Advanced finish technology that allows the use of space-age ceramics to increase the abrasion resistance of the wear layer.

Aluminum Oxide – particles added to the polyurethane finish to increase the abrasion resistance of the wear layer. This has become extremely popular on the better grades of hardwood floors.

Acrylic Impregnated – Acrylic monomers are injected into the cell structure of the wood to give increased hardness and then finished with a wear layer over the wood.

Note: With factory finished wood floors, chances are your pre-finished wood trims and molding will not match your floor, rather they will be color coordinated.

Links:

www.bonakemi.com

www.duraseal.com

www.eukula.com