



MAINTENANCE OF LACQUERED FLOORS (private use)

Karelia's lacquered floor boards are delivered from the factory finished with UV hardened lacquer that utilises the latest nano technology, providing excellent wear resistance. The emission classification E1 has been granted to lacquered and oiled Karelia boards. This system promotes the development and use of low-emission construction materials. In order to preserve the good properties of your lacquered hardwood floor through the years, you should take the following issues into consideration with regard to maintenance during installation and use.

Hardwood floor maintenance is easy and pleasant when you keep these essential points in mind:

- Correct humidity and temperature, with regard to floor heating as well (relative air humidity (RH) at 40 to 60 % and room temperature at +18–24 °C)
- Maximum surface temperature +27 °C and maximum daily temperature variation 5 °C
- Door mats on both sides of the door protect against dirt and scratching
- Sparse use of water in cleaning
- Immediate removal of stains
- Pieces of felt under furniture legs
- Lowering of temperature and reducing of ventilation system when apartment is empty, especially during the heating season
- Observing the natural colour changes of the boards, and moving mats and furniture, if necessary

Room air and floor heating

Wood is a natural material and is subjected to heavy stress by air humidity variations (it expands and contracts), in the Nordic countries in particular. It is therefore important to maintain the relative air humidity (RH) at 40 to 60 % and room temperature at +18–24 °C. If conditions deviate significantly from these values, gaps may appear in the wooden floor or it may expand, for which the manufacturer, retailer or installer cannot be held liable. You can reduce changes in the wooden floor's shape by using an air humidifier during dry times and heating and ventilating during humid conditions. If you stay away for longer periods in the heating season, you can maintain the air humidity at a higher level by bringing the temperature down to +15–18°C and setting the ventilation system to its minimum level. You should acquire a moisture meter/hygrometer for your apartment, since the aforementioned

humidity and temperature values are healthier for you and your family. During the winter season, so-called hair hygrometers display readings that are on average 10 to 15 % too high, unless calibrated at least once a month. We recommend buying a digital temperature/moisture combo meter. Beech, jatoba (not sold in the Nordic countries) and maple react more intensely to changes in air humidity than other kinds of wood, and are thus not recommended to be used in conjunction with floor heating.

Floor heat should be distributed evenly throughout the whole floor area. With heated floors, the temperature of hardwood floors should never exceed +27 °C. The maximum floor surface temperature variation within a day should be 5 °C. Take this into account, especially under carpets and with regard to water-circulated floor heating systems, by measuring the surface temperature at the beginning of the circulation system. Under thick carpets, the surface temperature of the hardwood floor is 1 to 2 degrees higher than on the surrounding floor area. Floor heating causes the floor surface to dry up and induces additional wood contraction.

Post-installation maintenance

Loose dirt and impurities are cleaned off finished hardwood floors by using a vacuum cleaner and an almost dry mop cleaning cloth. Use a mild cleanser, if necessary. After mopping/wiping, the floor must be dry. Wipe the floor dry with a clean cloth, if necessary. Protect lately installed floors with breathable and suitably sturdy material such as pieces of cardboard or protective mats for the duration of moving. Do not tape the protective materials to the floor.

Note! UV radiation alters wood colour over time. The colour of dark-coloured wood species darkens; in light-coloured species changes are less noticeable. Variations in colour – such as carpet outlines – will even out in time as they are exposed to daylight.

Cleaning and maintenance

Place suitable mats on both sides of the front door and beneath the coat rack to prevent sand and water from getting into the rooms. These mats should cover the length of around three steps. Remove abrasive dirt immediately. Avoid walking on the wooden floor with stiletto heels and ensure that pets' nails are short. When moving furniture such as refrigerators or freezers,



cover the floor with, for instance, mats in order to prevent scratches and dents. Use as little water as possible when cleaning (almost dry wipe). If visible moisture does not evaporate within a minute, you are definitely using too much water. Immediately wipe away spilled water from the floor. Remove stains when they are fresh, either with water or a mild cleanser and dry the floor. Avoid scrubbing with hard cleaning implements. For daily maintenance, it is enough to vacuum the floor or wipe it with an almost dry floor wiper. Thus the floor surface will dry immediately without visible drop stains appearing.

Spills and ingrained dirt is removed using Bona Woodfloor Cleaner, a pH-neutral cleaner designed specifically for finished wooden floors or similar products. Floors can be wiped with a floor wiper dipped in a mild cleansing solution (pH 6-8), and subsequently dried. Always avoid using copious amounts of water when cleaning the wooden floor. Use cleansing concentrate in accordance with the manufacturer's dose instructions, too large an amount of concentrate may cause the floor to get dirty more quickly as concentrate layers gather on top of one another. Most commonly, hardwood floors are damaged during moving. Hardwood floor surface cannot withstand the sliding or dropping of heavy objects on it. Office chairs equipped with casters require a mat or a plastic plate designed for the purpose underneath in order to prevent abrasion damage to your wooden floor.

Stain removal

Stain	Stain remover
Juice, wine, coffee, tea, chocolate	Cleansing solution
Oil, grease, soot, pitch, shoe polish	White spirit
Magic marker, ball-point pen, lipstick	Denatured alcohol
Blood	Cold water
PVAC glue	pH9 cleansing solution

Damage repair and reconditioning of lacquered surface

Use the Karelia reconditioning kit for lacquered wooden floors for the reconditioning of minor scratches and dents. The kit includes a putty tube, piece of sanding paper and bottle of lacquer. Damages to the Karelia Profiloc boards are best rectified by replacing the defective boards. This replacement should be done by professionals, either without removing the surrounding boards or by dismantling the hardwood floor, starting from the wall, and replacing the defective boards. The other boards will not be damaged, and can be reused. It is best to dismantle a hardwood floor in the winter season, with relative air humidity at its lowest level. When dismantling, you should pay special attention to the end joint.

Worn and scratched lacquered floor can be treated with an appropriate polishing agent (Bona Woodfloor Refresher). Note! Wax-saturated hardwood polishing agents prevent lacquer from attaching to the existing lacquer finishing. Sand the surface until you reach clean wood before maintenance lacquering.

Unwaxed hardwood floors can be maintenance lacquered after light sanding using a water-based hardwood lacquer.

Stained products:

These instructions apply to the maintenance of our Spice Collection's stained products as well. Wood-deep scratches can be stained using Karelia's spot stain colour.

Maintenance of hardwood floors in public places is different from that of floors in private houses. Contact us or visit our website at www.kareliaparketti.com.