

Varnished cork floors according to DIN 18356

Primary care	LOBA KorkCare (especially developed for cork floors) LOBA FloorCare Matt (for mat varnishes)
Maintenance	LOBA Cleaner (maintenance cleaning) LOBA CleanFix (spray-maintenance-cleaning) LOBA KorkCare (maintenance caring) LOBA FloorCare Matt (maintenance caring)
Stripping	LOBA CareRemover

General remarks

Cork

Cork is obtained by barking trunks and branches of the cork-oak and thus must be considered as renewable raw material. Its natural growth and texture gives cork a particular appearance. Two basically different types of cork are obtainable: Veneered cork at which a thin layer of cork is glued and laminated onto a carrier (generally cork granulate). Additionally there is granulated cork at which a mixture of cork granules and resins is cured under pressure.

Cork is a bad conductor of heat and deadens vibrations. Hence follow properties like footwarmth and good damping of footfalls. Additionally cork is insensitive against most solvents.

Due to the corks ability to absorb and desorb moisture, a regulating effect to the room climate within some limits can be observed. Exceeding these limits will lead to materials swelling or shrinking respectively. Hence follows the floors deformation or the formation of joints. For this reason it is important to keep the climate constant. A constant relative humidity between 55% and 65% at a room temperature of 20°C is necessary for both human well-being and the cork floors appearance. Simple measuring devices (thermometer, hygrometer) are used to check the parameters. Water-containing vessels at the radiators or special air-humidifier are helpful tools against constantly dry air.

Cork varnish

By varnishing cork will be protected against intruding moisture and soil. Freshly varnished floors are not to be used during the first 24 hours. Careful usage of the floor during the first few days will improve its lifetime. Full stressability will be achieved after 8-14 days.

Varnishing is a manual work. Thus little surface defects (caused by the inclusion of e.g. dust particles) may occur. This will have no influence on the floor's durability.

Cleaning and caring of varnished cork

Depending on stress the varnish is subjected to a natural wear which can be counteracted by appropriate measures. Sand, dust and other dirt particles act like sanding paper and scratch the surface. Early removal of this dirt is essential to prolong the floor's lifetime. Additionally layer-forming care products can be applied to produce an additional protective "sacrificial layer". If the surface is damaged due to common usage, it must be sanded and varnished again (if possible). Floors with a damaged varnish are to be cared using solvent-containing care products (see care instruction for impregnated cork floors) to avoid damages by swelling caused by intruding water.

First cleaning

Depending on the degree of soiling use LOBA Cleaner or LOBA CareRemover.

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Primary care

Pre-treatment

Make sure the floor is free from grease, wax, etc. Old layers of care products must be removed. Hence at least a maintenance cleaning procedure using LOBA Cleaner must be carried out. If necessary a basic cleaning must be performed.

Caring

A primary care on shiny substrates is to be carried out using LOBA KorkCare. On mat surfaces LOBA FloorCare Matt is to be used instead. The appropriate care product is applied deeply and equally using a LOBATOOL Wischwiesel. Never work into the drying surface. The floor can be used again after approximately 30 minutes. Full stressability is achieved after drying over night.

Caution: Mat care products are to be well shaken before use to avoid differences in gloss.

Maintenance

Cleaning

Add 50-100mL of LOBA Cleaner to a bucket (10L) of water and damp mop the floor. The appropriate cleaning intervals must be found out experimentally. Alternatively LOBA CleanFix can be used to spray-clean.

Caring

Maintenance caring can become necessary if the protective layer is severely worn. After a cleaning procedure a new protective layer (see primary care) is to be applied.

Caution: More than 3 layers of care product are to be avoided in order not to render basic cleanings more difficult than necessary.

Prior to the application of a new protective layer a maintenance cleaning is recommended.

Stripping

Manual or mechanical basic cleaning can become necessary in case of heavy stains which can not be removed during maintenance cleanings. A basic cleaning can also be necessary if already 3 layers of a film-forming care product are on the surface and the floor must be cared again.

Add 1 - 2,5L of LOBA CareRemover to a bucket (10L) of water. Apply this solution in sections onto the floor and allow to take effect for a short period of time. Then work over using a single disk machine (white or light brown pad). On small areas a scrubber can be used. Remove the dissolved dirt before it dries again. Thoroughly wipe the floor with clean water to remove any cleaner residues.

Since a basic cleaning also removes the care product, subsequently a new primary care must be carried out.

Notes

Stripping procedures should be carried out as seldom as possible.

Mat care products are exclusively to be used on mat surfaces.

At prolonged contact of plastifier-containing materials (e.g. rubber, plastics in stands of devices and furniture) with the varnish, plastifier-movement must be expected. This may cause non-reversible colorization of the varnish.

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