



DuCHÂTEAU

# MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

Hard-Wax Oiled Floors



## MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES FOR DUCHÂTEAU HARD-WAX OILED FLOORS

DuChâteau® Hardwood Floors are finished with a hard-wax oil, which must be maintained differently than polyurethane or aluminum-oxide finished floors. First and foremost, DuChâteau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant is the **ONLY** cleaning product approved for use when cleaning a DuChâteau hard-wax oiled floor. **Products containing alcohol are not approved for use** as alcohol – often used as a drying agent – will break down the vital waxes and oils of your DuChâteau hard-wax oil floor and damage them. Please read all instructions thoroughly before starting.

**IMPORTANT:** Your Quality Engineered DuChâteau Hardwood Floor comes fully saturated from the factory with our hard-wax oil. As a result, it is not required to apply DuChâteau Maintenance Oil immediately following installation, though regular annual oiling still applies. It is recommended, however, that you clean your floors after installation using only DuChâteau Premium Floor Cleaner and Protectant and still maintain the floor with DuChâteau Maintenance Oil regularly or as needed each year.

**Daily Cleaning:** For regular daily upkeep of your floor, a simple sweeping or vacuuming should be all that is required. A floor vacuum with a hardwood floor attachment or one in which the beater brush can be turned off should be used to avoid scratching or damaging the floor.

**Weekly/Biweekly Cleaning:** For a slightly deeper floor cleaning or to properly prepare your floor for oiling, DuChâteau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant is highly recommended. This concentrate requires dilution using two buckets and two mops (sponge or short napped only). One mop and bucket will be designated for warm water and cleaner, while the second mop and bucket is used for a warm water rinse. Remember, the diluted concentrate should never pool on the surface, nor should the mop be more than damp. **EXCESS MOISTURE CAN DAMAGE THE FLOOR.** To begin:

1. Vacuum or sweep the floor prior to cleaning.
2. Shake the cleaner bottle well.
3. Mix two (2) caps per gallon to bucket of warm (not hot) water.
4. Apply soap mixture to floor using mop in a 15' X 15' area or smaller. Do NOT soak the floor with water, as this will cause black mold between the boards and the sides will “curl up.”
5. Leave solution on the floor for a few minutes to bring dirt to the surface and dissolve any foreign residue.
6. Remove dirty soapy solution from floors using a second well-wrung mop or cloth and the clear warm water. This removes the dirt and evens out the oil in the cleaner for a streak-free finish. Be sure NOT to let the solution dry. Rinse mop thoroughly in clear warm water. Change the rinse bucket as needed -- about 4 to 5 times for each bucket of cleaner solution being used.
7. Proceed to the next area, and repeat steps 4, 5, & 6.
8. Once the entire floor has been cleaned, allow the floor to dry for one hour.



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**Persistent Stains or Marks:** If DuChâteau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant does not remove individual marks or stains from the wood, DuChâteau Maintenance Oil can be used as a stain remover. Mix the DuChâteau Maintenance Oil and apply a very small amount to the stain and rub gently with a cloth. If the stain is not removed, gentle use of a non-abrasive scrub pad, such as a Scotch-Brite® scrub sponge, can be used in place of a cloth. Rub in the direction of the grain. Please note aggressive use of a scrub pad with white oiled floors may lift the white color from the floor.

**Annual Maintenance and Conditioning:** Depending on the environmental conditions and amount of traffic, annual application of DuChâteau Maintenance Oil is recommended to moisturize and condition the floor. In dryer climates and on areas that receive a higher amount of traffic, more frequent application may be necessary to properly maintain your floor. The DuChâteau Maintenance Oil benefits the floor in several ways.

1. **Conditioning:** The open, porous nature of DuChâteau Hardwood Floors allows the wood to absorb and/or release moisture (depending on environmental conditions). DuChâteau Maintenance Oil will help moisturize the floor.
2. **Protection:** The wax element of the Maintenance Oil works similarly to the wax coating on the paint of a car. It provides an extra layer of protection from contaminants that may have spilled on or may come in contact with the floor.
3. **Restoration:** The oil element of the Maintenance Oil may help brighten the natural graining of the wood and may enhance the color.

As wood floors age, high traffic areas tend to wear more than lower traffic areas. DuChâteau Maintenance Oil may be applied to those high traffic areas with greater frequency without having to re-coat the entire floor. However, the entire floor should be maintained annually. Regular application of Maintenance Oil will provide longer-lasting protection and keep your floors looking beautiful for many years to come.

**Application of DuChâteau Maintenance Oil:** Shake or stir the can of DuChâteau Maintenance Oil well. There are wax solids that settle in the oil that need to be blended for proper application. Pour the Maintenance Oil into a squeeze bottle. This will allow more control over the amount of oil applied. Squirt a small amount of the oil along the floor, spreading as thin as possible with a soft rag. Use a cotton rag that does not have loops of material that can snag on corners or in textured grain. For best results, spread along the grain, wiping off excess as you go.

While applying, there should not be any pooling of DuChâteau Maintenance Oil. When applied properly, the floor should have a slight sheen but should not appear wet.

**\*ONE CAN OF WILL COVER APPROXIMATELY 750 SQUARE FEET OF FLOORING WHEN PROPERLY APPLIED.**



# DuCHÂTEAU

*If coverage is less than this, the product is not spread thin enough. This can result in problems requiring the user to have to buff off excess product carefully by hand or with an orbital buffing machine. Spread as thin as possible and work in small areas to prevent excess product from setting on the flooring surface before it is properly spread. Keep from walking on the floor for 12 hours or more to allow wax to fully harden. If it is necessary to walk on the floors prior to drying, please put paper booties over your shoes to prevent leaving footprints in the wax. Keep furniture off of freshly oiled floors for 12 to 18 hours. Keep rugs off of freshly oiled floors for 48 hours.*

**Maintenance Application of DuChâteau Maintenance Oil:** For the maintenance application (recommended at least annually), use the same process as listed above for the initial cleaning.

For general homeowner/end-user maintenance, the DuChâteau Maintenance Oil needs only be reapplied to areas that receive more traffic. With proper application, it will not alter the color of the floor and can be applied to small areas as needed or used as a spot or stain remover without needing to reapply the product to the entire floor.

White Color Maintenance Application of DuChâteau White Maintenance Oil (PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY): Over time, DuChâteau white oiled floors may require an application of DuChâteau White Maintenance Oil every few years to renew the floor's white appearance. Use of DuChâteau Maintenance Oil-Clear is still recommended for regular maintenance of all DuChâteau floors, including white oiled floors. **WARNING:** Use of this product on any other type of DuChâteau floor may cause significant discoloration or damage. DuChâteau White Maintenance Oil should only be applied by an experienced finisher who is familiar with wood stains.

## Available Care Products



### DuChâteau Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant

**Application:** For the regular upkeep of your oiled DuChâteau® wood floors, our specially formulated Premium Floor Cleaner & Protectant promises you a thoroughly clean and nurtured floor, all without the hassle and headache of multiple products, all in one safe, environmentally friendly woodcare product. One bottle (33.8 fluid ounces) cleans 4,000 square feet.



### DuChâteau Maintenance Oil-Clear Formula

**Application:** To keep a lasting, hardy brilliance in the finish of your hard-wax oiled floors, periodic application of DuChâteau's Maintenance Oil - Clear will rejuvenate the surface oil coat of your floors and keep them looking great and relatively impermeable to foreign contaminants. One can (33.8 fluid ounces) maintains approximately 750 square feet.