

Tongue & Groove

Care and Maintenance Guide



Congratulations on your new Tongue & Groove flooring.

Tongue & Groove flooring is a long-term investment and this guide will help you to preserve the beauty of your new floor.

Our boards are crafted from three layers of solid European oak. While this natural, organic material is known for its inherent strength and durability, it should be properly cared for to maximise its longevity. Establishing the correct care and maintenance routine will ensure the boards age gracefully and develop a unique patina that will enhance the character of the timber over time.

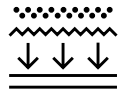
It's also essential to use the correct products to maintain your floors. We partner with WOCA to create our extensive range of 16 colours and finishes, and recommend using their wood oils and wood care products to get the best results. With more than 50 years experience in treating, maintaining and protecting wood, the Danish company has an unrivalled passion and respect for timber. This extends to their sustainable ethos, which drives them to develop natural oils and soaps that nurture and protect the timber, our environment, and our health.

This guide is a valuable resource that explains how to get the best out of your Tongue & Groove floor. If, however, you are unsure of how to approach a specific problem, reach out to our knowledgeable team who can offer their expertise.

Please be aware that using the wrong cleaning substances or equipment on your Tongue & Groove flooring can do more harm than good.

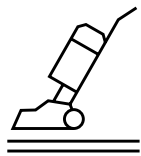
Preventative tips

By taking simple steps to prevent problems before they occur, you can protect your floor for years to come:



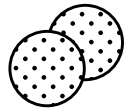
Avoid dirt

Dirt and grit act like sandpaper. To avoid unsightly scratches, place dirt-trapping mats at all exterior doors and ensure they are regularly cleaned to minimise the risk of debris being brought inside on footwear. Never use mats with rubber backing as they have the potential to stain timber floors.



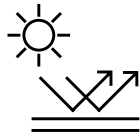
Vacuum regularly

Vacuum regularly with a soft head brush attachment to remove dust and dirt particles from the floor. Never use the beater bar, as it will damage timber floors. Alternatively, sweep daily with a soft broom or as needed.



Use felt protectors

Put felt protector pads on the feet of all furniture and any other hard objects that will make contact with the timber floor. These discreet pads allow furniture to be moved easily without scuffing the floor. Periodically clean the glides since grit can become embedded in the fabric.



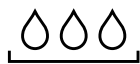
Use window protectors

Excessive exposure to direct sunlight can cause unwanted changes to the colour of your boards over time. In areas exposed to direct sunlight or other sources of UV light, the use of curtains, blinds and other window protectors will help maintain your floor.



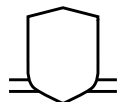
Wipe up spills

All spills should be wiped up promptly with a dry cloth or paper towel. Spills left on the floor for lengthy periods will stain the timber. Be extra aware of red wine, grease, hot cooking oils, blood, coffee, tea, and pet urine.



Use drip trays

Excess water can quickly cause damage to timber floors. Place drip trays under indoor plants, and pet bowls and bedding to avoid water leakage and moisture ingress.



Be gentle

Do not use: ammonia-based cleaners, wax based products, detergents, bleach, polishes of any kind, abrasive cleaning soaps, steel wool or abrasive clothes, steam mops, turps, vinegar, methylated spirits, or kerosene.

If you have any questions about preventative measures you can take to protect your Tongue & Groove floor, please contact us directly.

Caring for your natural oak

Naturally oiled timber floors are undoubtedly beautiful—but they do need care to keep them looking their best. It is important to clean naturally oiled timber floors with a quality wood soap that will not wear down the natural oil and dry out the wood, eventually causing cracks in the surface. WOCA Natural Soap contains high-quality vegetable oils that work hard, naturally, to enhance the resistance and durability of the floor's surface.

At Tongue & Groove, we recommend the below maintenance program and products for your flooring. This should be used as a guide only. If you have any questions or specific issues, please contact our team.



How often do I need to clean my Tongue & Groove floor?

When developing a care and maintenance routine, it's important to consider the use and location of the room. Entrance halls and kitchen floors normally see the heaviest use in the home and therefore require more cleaning than the other rooms of the house.

Generally, we would recommend cleaning your floors with a mop, broom, or vacuum as often as possible to keep them in the best condition. Dirt and other debris can easily scratch the timber—and it can take a lot of effort to repair the damage and get your floors back to their best.

















The table below suggests guideline maintenance intervals depending on the degree of use.

	Medium use (bedrooms, living rooms etc.):	Heavy use (shops, kitchens, offices, hotels etc.):
Clean	Wash once every 2 weeks	Wash once a week
Refresh	Refresh quarterly	Refresh as required
Rejuvenate	Rejuvenate every 1–5 years	Rejuvenate every 1–5 years

Know your Tongue & Groove floor

It's essential to know the colour and finish of your Tongue & Groove flooring. All WOCA products are carefully formulated specifically for different finishes.

Before reading the rest of this guide, use the table below to identify the finish of your Tongue & Groove floor.

WOCA Hard Wax Oil:	WOCA UV Oil:	Bergolin Matt Lacquer:
 Alpacca*	 Ardesia*	 Argento
 Chamoisee*	 Graupa*	 Bistre**
 Hekke**		 Freado
 Oslo**		 Kimber
 Penza*		 Nueve
 Raba*		 Otta
 Sepia*		
 Sienna*		

* Use WOCA Natural Soap, ** Use WOCA White Soap

Which WOCA products are compatible with my Tongue & Groove floor?

Once you have identified the finish of your Tongue & Groove floor using the table above, use the tables below to identify which WOCA products you need to carry out the correct care and maintenance routine.

	WOCA Hard Wax Oil:	WOCA UV Oil:	Bergolin Matt Lacquer:
Clean	Natural Soap (Natural/White)	Natural Soap (Natural/White)	Master Cleaner
Refresh	Oil Refreshing Soap (Natural/White)	Oil Refreshing Soap (Natural/White)	
Rejuvenate	Intensive Wood Cleaner + Oil Care	Intensive Wood Cleaner + Maintenance Gel	Intensive Wood Cleaner + Master Care
Repair	Wood Stain Remover + Tannin Spot Remover	Wood Stain Remover + Tannin Spot Remover	Wood Stain Remover + Tannin Spot Remover

When purchasing WOCA care and maintenance products, it's important to select the correct coloured soap for your product. For beige and dark tone floors, use Natural; for light tone floors, use White.

Which soap is right for you? Please refer to the table above which gives you guidance on the coloured soap you need.

WOCA product guide

Clean


Using WOCA Natural Soap



Clean and maintain oiled, waxed and soaped wood surfaces with WOCA Natural Soap. This mild, penetrating soap removes dirt and helps prevent the wood from drying out and cracking. It leaves behind a microscopic, breathable soap layer on the surface that maximises resistance and makes the surface easier to keep clean. Natural Soap is indoor climate labelled and free of perfume and additives.

1. Prior to using WOCA Natural Soap, sweep or vacuum your floors.
2. Shake the bottle well before use, making sure the pigments are mixed well.
3. Mix 125 ml of Natural Soap with 5 litres of lukewarm water.
4. Using a well-wrung mop, damp mop the floor with the Natural Soap mixture.
5. Leave floor to dry.

For best results, use two buckets: one with soap water and the second with clean water to rinse the first mop.

 For a video demonstration on using WOCA Natural Soap, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.


Using WOCA Master Cleaner (formerly named Vinyl Laminate and Lacquer Soap)



WOCA Master Cleaner is used to clean lacquered floors removing dirt and grime, while strengthening the surface and making it more resistant to spills. It leaves no soapy residue making it perfect for areas where frequent washing of floors is necessary.

1. Mix 125ml of Master Cleaner with 5 litres of hot water.
2. Wipe the floor lengthwise.
3. It is important that no water is left on the floor after cleaning.

For best results, use two buckets: one with soap water and the second with clean water to rinse the first mop.

 For a video demonstration on using WOCA Master Cleaner, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.

Refresh

Using WOCA Oil Refreshing Soap (formerly named Oil Refresher)




WOCA Oil Refreshing Soap combines efficient cleaning with oil rejuvenation to maintain the natural glow of your timber floor. The product penetrates into the wood, forming a matt protective layer on the surface.

1. The floor must be free from dust before treatment.
2. Shake the container well and pour the product into a plastic bucket ensuring no pigments are left in the container. Stir regularly during application to prevent the pigments from settling to the bottom.

3. Mix WOCA Oil Refreshing Soap with lukewarm water as per the instructions on the back of the bottle.
4. Wipe the floor lengthwise. It is recommended to clean an area of approx. 10 m² at any one time.
5. Leave the floor to dry for approximately 2–3 hours before use.

For best results, use two buckets: one with soap water and the second with clean water to rinse the first mop.

 For a video demonstration on using WOCA Oil Refreshing Soap, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.

Rejuvenate


Using WOCA Intensive Wood Cleaner



WOCA Intensive Wood Cleaner is a priming cleaner that can be used on particularly stubborn stains or before a surface is treated with products such as oil, lacquer, or soap.

1. Mix WOCA Intensive Wood Cleaner with lukewarm water as per the instructions on the back of the bottle.
2. Mop lengthwise on the wood with a well-wrung mop and leave the solution on the floor surface to dissolve dirt. Repeat if the surface is very dirty.
3. Let the surface dry before subsequent treatment.

For best results, use two buckets: one with soap water and the second with clean water to rinse the first mop.

 For a video demonstration on using WOCA Intensive Wood Cleaner, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.

Using WOCA Oil Care



WOCA Oil Care is used for the maintenance of all natural oiled wood surfaces. It requires a simple manual application with no need for machines.

1. Prior to using WOCA Oil Care you must clean the floor first with WOCA Intensive Wood Cleaner and leave the floor to dry for at least 8 hours. The floor must be completely dry.
2. Shake the container carefully.
3. Polish in a thin layer of the Oil Care with a white pad or cotton cloth. Work in small areas one step at a time and continue polishing until the wood appears saturated and the surface looks uniform.
4. The floor should not appear wet and there should not be any excess oil left on the surface after polishing.
5. After 12–24 hours the floor can be used with caution. Do not expose the floor to water during hardening time.



For a video demonstration on using WOCA Oil Care, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.

Using WOCA Maintenance Gel



WOCA Maintenance Gel is for the care and maintenance of oiled indoor wooden surfaces and floors. The oil is quick-drying and leaves an attractive, water- and dirt-repellent surface.

1. Thoroughly clean the surface with Intensive Wood Cleaner, then wash with clean water. After cleaning, leave the surface to dry for at least 8–9 hours.
2. Sand the surface then vacuum the surface thoroughly.

3. Apply an appropriate amount of Maintenance Gel to a WOCA Hand Scrubber polishing pad (Flex Kit white) and distribute over the surface in a thin, even coat. Continue polishing until the wood seems saturated and the surface has a uniform appearance. It is recommended to work on small areas at a time, as the gel is quick-drying.
4. Immediately wipe down the polished surface with a clean, dry, lint-free cotton cloth. When prepping with a machine, the final polishing should be done with a cotton cloth beneath the buffer. The surface should not appear wet and no excess gel should remain on the surface.
5. If the wood does not seem fully saturated after 4–6 hours, repolish with less gel than the first treatment, but follow the same procedure.
6. Wait 4–6 hours before using the surface. Avoid getting water or dirt on the wooden surface for the next 3 days.

▶ For a video demonstration on using WOCA Maintenance Gel visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.

Using WOCA Master Care



WOCA Master Care smooths small scratches, increases the resistance of the surface and provides effective protection against wear of lacquered surfaces. This extends the lifetime of the surface or floor. Because Master Care does not build up a thick layer, you can use the product whenever it is required.

1. Wash the floor thoroughly with WOCA Intensive Wood Cleaner. Wash with clean water afterwards. Leave the floor to dry completely before application of Master Care.
2. Shake the container well before use.
3. Apply the concentrated care product in a thin and even coat, using a WOCA Wool Pad and WOCA Pad Holder. If the cloth/mop becomes dirty, rinse in clean water and wring thoroughly. Then continue the application. Do not apply additional Master Care once a surface has begun to dry.
4. Leave the floor to dry for 1–2 hours.

▶ For a video demonstration on using WOCA Master Care, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.


Repair

Using WOCA Wood Stain Remover



WOCA Wood Stain Remover is based on soap and specifically developed for indoor use to effectively remove stains—including grease, red wine, coffee, tea or blood—on interior surfaces.

1. Always remember to test on a less visible spot to check the compatibility of the surface with the product.
2. Spray the Wood Stain Remover evenly on the stain directly from the bottle.
3. Leave the Wood Stain Remover to dissolve the stain for 15–20 minutes.
4. Scrub with a WOCA Hand Scrubber polishing pad (Flex Kit white) till the stain has been dissolved.
5. Wipe with cloth wrung in luke-warm water.
6. Repeat if necessary.
7. When the floor is completely dry, apply the original surface finish—oil, wax or soap—to re-establish the protection of the surface.

 For a video demonstration on using WOCA Wood Stain Remover, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.

Using WOCA Tannin Spot Remover



WOCA Tannin Spot Remover effectively removes black spots caused by tannin or water reaction on interior wood surfaces without any harsh bleaching chemicals.

1. Always remember to test on a less visible spot to check the compatibility of the surface with the product.
2. Spray the Tannin Spot Remover evenly on the stain directly from the bottle.

3. Leave the Tannin Spot Remover to dissolve the stain for 30–60 minutes.
4. Wipe with cloth wrung in luke-warm water.
5. Repeat if necessary.
6. When the floor is completely dry, apply the original surface finish—oil, wax or soap—to re-establish the protection of the surface.

▶ For video demonstrations on using WOCA care and maintenance products, visit the Tongue & Groove YouTube channel.

Basic equipment














1× mop (ideally cotton)



2× buckets

Where to buy

To place an order or enquire about the product range, please contact [Alex Lind Flooring Supplies](#), our trusted supplier of WOCA products in Australia. For any other enquiries or concerns about cleaning and caring for your floor, please contact the Tongue & Groove team directly.

	WOCA Maintenance Box Oiled Floors (remember to select white/natural)	White Natural	Buy now Buy now
	WOCA Natural Soap (remember to select white/natural)	1 L 2.5 L 5 L	Buy now Buy now Buy now
	WOCA Oil Refreshing Soap (remember to select white/natural)	1 L 2.5 L	Buy now Buy now
	WOCA Master Cleaner	1 L 2.5 L	Buy now Buy now
	WOCA Maintenance Oil (remember to select white/natural)	1 L 2.5 L	Buy now Buy now
	WOCA Maintenance Gel (remember to select white/natural)	200 ml	Buy now
	WOCA Wood Stain Spot Remover	250 ml	Buy now
	WOCA Tannin Spot Remover	250 ml	Buy now
	WOCA Sweep Mop Red (head replacement \$62)	–	Buy now
	WOCA Soap Spray Mop (mop replacement cover \$25)	–	Buy now
	WOCA Burnishing Polishing Cloth	–	Buy now

