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HOW TO FINISH YOUR FLOORS

Floors may be finished in one of two basic ways with paint or with varnish or clear finish. The method you choose will depend upon the effect you want to achieve, and perhaps upon the condition of the floor to be finished. For painting and sanding give protection to the wood from heat, wear and traffic. Finishing means using a pigmented material such as "Devcon-Ber" Floor & Floor Enamel, which is made in a variety of long-lasting and attractive colors, and which is opaque and therefore hides the grain of the wood. Varnishing, whether with or without staining, gives a transparent coating that allows the grain of the wood to show through.



PREPARATION OF THE SURFACE

No matter whether you're planning to paint or varnish, preparation of the surface is the first step. The floor should be thoroughly clean and dry. Remove all wax, grease or oil. If there is even a trace of wax, grease or oil on a floor, neither paint nor varnish will adhere properly. A good cleaning with a prepared washing powder and warm water will remove most of the grease and dirt and give you an old floor. Knapkins will remove wax, oil or grease, but each area should be scrubbed thoroughly. If the old finish is cracked or peeling in spots,

sandpaper these places. Dust thoroughly with a cloth dampened with water or mineral spirits to remove all dust particles after sanding. If the floor is in poor condition, say a sawing machine which may be rented from your paint dealer and follow his instructions for its use.

If You're Going to PAINT Your Floors

Use "Devcon-Ber" Floor & Floor Enamel. In the color you prefer. Before painting be sure the paint is well mixed. Use a paddle and with a lifting motion work the contents up thoroughly from the bottom of the can until the paint is completely uniform. On exterior work paint in good weather. Do not paint a surface while it is in intense sun.

New wood, heavily worn or weathered floors need two coats of paint. If you are painting exterior wood, such as porch steps, first apply "Devcon-Ber" Oil Primer. Allow 3 days of good drying weather. Then apply "Devcon-Ber" Floor & Floor Enamel, without staining. On all other surfaces use a first coat of "Devcon-Ber" Floor & Floor Enamel, thinned with one pint of turpentine or mineral spirits per gallon. Allow to dry overnight, then apply a finish coat of the enamel as it comes in the can, for one coat.

Previously painted wood, concrete, linoleum may be painted with one coat of "Devcon-Ber" Floor & Floor Enamel. Do not stain, but apply it as it comes in the can. Apply the enamel with a moderately full brush. Spread it on evenly and avoid excessive "stitching." The paint will level out by itself. This sturdy enamel sets rapidly, dries in 4 to 6 hours and is hard enough to be walked upon the day following application.

SPATTERED EFFECT

To get a spattered effect on floors, allow the enamel to dry thoroughly. Then dip a brush into a tin of oil or turpentine or contrasting color as it's partly filled with paint. Tap the brush lightly against a stick; the paint will "spatter" on the floor in an interesting pattern of



droplets. One, two, or more colors may be used. Spattered floors even to show less wear than a floor in a solid color. This old Colonial custom has become quite popular recently, and it's easy to brighten up your floor in this way.

If You're Going to VARNISH Your Floors

Surface preparation is even more important when you're planning to varnish your floor than when you're painting them. Paint or floor enamel hides more imperfections. But varnish doesn't hide them as it gives a transparent coating only. If your floors are clean, smooth and dry, be doubly sure that all wax, grease and oil are completely removed by cleaning with naptha or turpentine, a small area at a time.

New floors, or old floors scraped down to the bare wood may be finished with "Devcon-Ber" Floor & Floor Varnish if you wish to keep the floor in its present natural color.

Open-grained woods such as oak, chestnut or walnut require filling before they are varnished. Use "Devcon-Ber" Floor & Floor Filler. Apply it by rubbing the filler in a thin paste with mineral spirits or turpentine. Brush it on with the grain. Let it set about 15 to 30 minutes, but remove the excess before it hardens by rubbing across the grain with a coarse cloth or brush. Allow filler to dry at least 24 hours before applying varnish. Apply the first coat of varnish thinned with one pint of mineral spirits or turpentine per gallon. Allow this to dry overnight. Then apply the second coat with-

out thinning. Sandpaper lightly between coats and dust carefully before applying second coat.

Open-grained woods such as maple, pine, spruce or fir do not require filling. Simply apply first coat of varnish thinned with one pint of mineral spirits or turpentine per gallon. Allow to dry thoroughly, at least overnight, sand lightly and dust carefully. Then apply second coat without thinning.



STAINING

If you wish to change the color of your floor, use "Devcon-Ber" Oil Wood Stain in the color of your choice before filling or varnishing. Stain may be applied directly to bare wood. Follow instructions on the label to control its color depth. On close-grained wood which doesn't require filling, allow the stain to dry overnight. Then finish with two coats of varnish, as above. On open-grained wood, first stain the floor. Then when this is dry apply Faste Wash Filler stained to the color of the floor with the stain you'll follow directions above. Allow at least 24 hours drying time. Then finish with two coats of varnish, thinning the first coat with one pint of mineral spirits or turpentine per gallon. When dry, sand lightly and dust carefully. Apply second coat without thinning.

CRYSTALOID FINISHES

Among the newest products of National Lead Company research are the "Devcon-Ber" Crystalloid Finishes. These include Crystalloid Floor & Floor Clear Coat, Clear Coat, Clear Coat, Clear Coat Floor and Wood Stain. With these products, it is possible to do a complete floor finish-

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ing job in just one day or less. This is a definite advantage where the owner cannot be out of service for any prolonged period.

For a Clear Finish . . . where you want to keep the wood in its own original color with the natural grain showing through, here's the procedure:

• **Open-grained woods** (such as oak, chestnut or walnut) require filling before finishing. Treat them the same as in the instructions above on varnishing. Allow filler to dry at least 24 hours. Then apply **Interstain Filler & Wood Glue** in three coats with a standard varnish brush or a short-nap, mohair-type roller. Flow on the water in an even, uniform coat. Allow 4 hours drying time. Sand lightly and dust clean. Then apply one or two coats of either **Interstain Clear Sealer** or **Clear-Gloss Finish** without staining. Allow 1 to 2 hours of drying time between coats.

• **Close-grained woods** (such as maple, pine, spruce, fir and birch) do not require any special preparation. Apply one coat of **Interstain Filler & Wood Glue** in three coats with a short-nap, mohair-type roller. Flow on the water in a uniform, even coat. Allow 4 to 6 hours drying time. Sand lightly and dust clean. Then apply one or two coats of **Interstain Clear Sealer** or **Clear-Gloss Finish**. Allow 1 to 2 hours drying time between coats. Sand lightly and dust thoroughly between coats.

For a Rich Finish . . .

Apply a first coat of **Interstain Filler & Wood Glue** in three coats following directions on the label. Then apply one coat of "Interstain" Oil. When stain is in the selected color. Wipe the surface, to remove excess stain, after an interval of 10 minutes or longer, according to the depth of color desired.

When the stained surface is thoroughly dry, apply the finish coats of **Clear Sealer** or **Clear-Gloss Finish** following the label to dry at least 24 hours before staining. Sand lightly and dust thoroughly. Then apply second coat without staining.

Alternate Method: On close-grained woods, use **Interstain Filler & Wood Glue** in the selected color. When the stained surface is dry at least 4 hours. Then apply two coats of **Clear Sealer** or **Clear-Gloss Finish** after sanding lightly and dusting thoroughly between coats. Allow from 1 to 2 hours drying time between coats.

SHELLAC FINISH

Another method of fine finishing is with shellac. This is clear in color and is also quickly. However, for use in one only, a suitable brand, as "Thompson" shellac does not dry and cracks. First coat should be a "wash coat," applied very thin. Reduce 2 pound cut shellac with an equal quantity of denatured alcohol. 2 pound with 2 1/2 parts to the gallon. 3 pound with 1 part to the gallon. First coat (wash coat) is followed by two coats of 2 pound cut shellac. If you have 2 pound cut, thin it with 2 quart of denatured alcohol per gallon. If you have 3 pound cut, thin it with 2 1/2 parts per gallon.

PAINTING TIPS

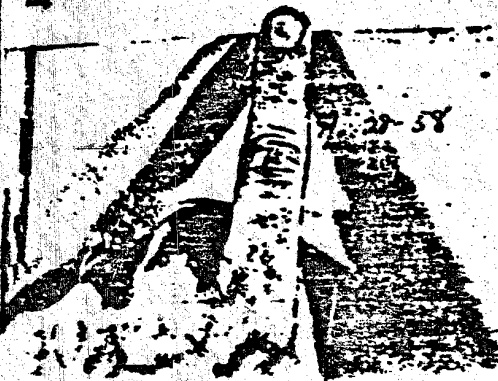
• A soft bristle brush is best for varnishing. When a new brush may be chosen, so that it has natural spine or temper and sheds it not thoroughly before using.

• Work in strips about two feet wide, starting from a corner and working with the grain of the wood.

• Old or worn brushes can be given new life if it's painted with "Interstain" Filler & Wood Glue. So use all that is removed, however, with naptha or turpentine, and let new brushes be clean and dry.

• Keep a clean cloth and natural spine or temper brush handy to wipe up any spills or spots on wall or hardware before they dry.

• Please read labels such as the varnish, oil, stain, etc. on days with "Interstain" Oil. When, please after staining all the spots with sanding.



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