



Triibe

TIMBER FLOOR TIP SHEET

BEFORE BEGINNING

Remove furniture from your space | Remove skirting boards or protect with painting tape | Seal gaps underneath doors | Cover powerpoint and vents | Open windows for ventilation | Test the treatment on an off cut of timber. | Consider where to start so you don't paint yourself into a corner! Wear disposable shoe covers.

PREP THE SURFACE

Preparation really is key when it comes to renewing your floorboards | Before undertaking any of the following methods, sand the timber down, either by hand or with an electric sander, so it is raw and bare | Afterwards, vacuum up all of the dust. Use a damp cloth if necessary | Don't begin until the timber is completely

AFTERWARDS

For durability after any treatment, give your freshly restored floorboards the time to cure and strengthen. Avoid any walking on timber for another 2-3 days after the final coat and limit foot traffic for the next week to allow your floor to reach maximum strength

TIMBER FLOORS TLC

Sweep and vacuum frequently to reduce abrasive dirt | Remember water and wood are a bad combination. Only ever use a damp mop | Never steam mop | Clean up any spillages straight away | Avoid all harsh chemical products | Choose a rug to protect the timber in highly worn or trafficked areas | Take care when moving furniture around.



OILED

If your timber floors are looking lacklustre and grey, a fresh coat of oil could do the trick. As seen in this Parisian apartment, oil finishes tend to bring out the grain of the wood, turning your floorboards into a feature. The oil is absorbed by the timber as opposed to sitting on top like a varnish. It conditions and draws out character. As maintenance, re-oiling is suggested every two to three years.

Prep the surface | Apply product liberally and evenly with a brush, roller or cloth | Work in small sections | Once applied, allow the oil to sit and saturate the floor for about 20 minutes. Look at the floor from different angles to find dry spots | Buff the oil into the floor with a lint free cloth | Wipe any excess oil off with a clean cloth | Wait overnight before applying the next coat | Apply more coats, ensuring floor thoroughly dries in between. Determine the number of coats depending on the amount of traffic through the space.



SOAPWASH

Soap wash is a product that you apply to your timber floors after you have sealed them with a protective layer of white oil. White oil is an all-natural substitute to lime-wash, which is more translucent in appearance while still whitening your floors. Soaping your floors helps to maintain the durability of the timber, while also continuously brightening them. As Soap Wash has a white pigment in it, it allows you to gradually build up the colour you would like to achieve while still allowing the timber to maintain its natural properties.

After applying white oil and allowing it to dry | Vacuum the floor and wipe using clean water. Let floor dry completely | To apply the soap wash, shake product well and pour soap wash solution and stir | Mop the soap wash on to your floor using a roller brush. Paint with the grain of the wood | Use only a small amount of liquid at a time as it spreads easily | Once applied, allow the wash to sit and saturate the floor for 20 minutes before applying a second coat | After the second coat is applied, allow product to dry for 2 hours before buffing and vacuuming the floor.



PAINTED

Painted floors are an ideal way to hide any imperfections in older floorboards or to make a unique statement of colour in your space. Keep in mind with paint your timbers grain and character will be covered, perhaps the perfect solution for weathered floorboards.

Prep the surface | Roll or brush on a primer, matched with the type of paint you use (oil or latex). Leave it for 1-2 days to dry | Sand floor again with a finer grit. This is important as paint can spotlight imperfections | Vacuum and remove all dust | Apply a thin layer of paint. Opt for a natural bristle brush or a microfibre roller. If using a roller, work slowly to avoid bubbles forming | Paint 2 more thin coats, leaving 1-2 days of dry time between | For longevity, finish with 1-2 layers of a top coat. Like the primer, this topcoat would be matched with your paint type.



STAINED

Staining your floorboards will enrich and bring character to the space. There is a large variety of stain colours you can choose from. It is important to know what timber your flooring is, as the stain will react differently pending what it is going on.

Prep the surface | Thoroughly mix the stain | Using either a brush or rag, apply stain onto the timber | With a clean rag wipe off the stain while it is still wet. This will push the product into the grain while removing any excess | Remember to move consistently with the direction of the floorboards and grain of the wood to avoid streaks | We recommend doing smaller sections of your floor at a time for an even finish | If using a water based stain, leave for several hours to dry. If an oil based stain, leave overnight | Complete desired number of coats as the above steps | For a more hard wearing result, follow the stain with a sealer.

IMAGES

Front page:

House in Skärholmen, Stockholm | Image courtesy of Fantastic Frank | Architecture by Tommy Carlsson | Styled by Sofie Ganeva | Photography by Andy Liffner | Website: Fantasticfrank.se

Oiled page:

House in Skärholmen, Stockholm | Image courtesy of Fantastic Frank | Architecture by Tommy Carlsson | Styled by Sofie Ganeva | Photography by Andy Liffner | Website: Fantasticfrank.se

Soapwashed page:

Rune Bech's home in Copenhagen | Image courtesy of Dinesen | Architecture by Space & Arkitektfirmaet ABBJ ApS | Photography by Rune Bech | Website: Dinesen.com

Painted page:

Apartment in Vasatan, Stockholm | Image courtesy of Fantastic Frank | Architecture by Andreas Martin-Löf | Styled by Sofie Ganeva | Photography by Emily Laye | Website: Fantasticfrank.se

Stained page:

La Boutique - Double Bay, Sydney | Designed by We Are Triibe | Photography: Terence Chin

Please note that any advice given in this tip sheet is a suggestion only. As every timber floor and product is unique, it is advised that product instructions and professional advice is to be considered prior to applying any of the below methods to your timber flooring.