

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OILED FINISH AND A LACQUER FINISH FOR YOUR WOOD FLOORS

One of the features that needs to be considered when having your wood floor renovated is the finish. Whilst renovating the wood is all about removing the old finishes as well as the top layer of the wood leaving you with new looking flooring the finish can have a dramatic effect on how your floor looks. There are fundamentally two different finishes that can be applied, Oil & Lacquer.

Lacquer – what is it?

Lacquer is a bit like modern day varnish and is applied to the floor as a way of protecting the floor and gives the surface a semi-matt finish. It's a polyurethane product that sits on the surface of the wood and doesn't sink in like oil finishes.



Caring for a Lacquered floor

Lacquers are really easy to keep clean as you will be cleaning the surface of the lacquer rather than the wood itself. It is somewhat water resistant but it's not a good idea to splash lots of water on any wood floor! With appropriate, good quality door mats and a good sweeping or vacuuming schedule then a flat mop is usually all that is required to maintain a lacquered floor.

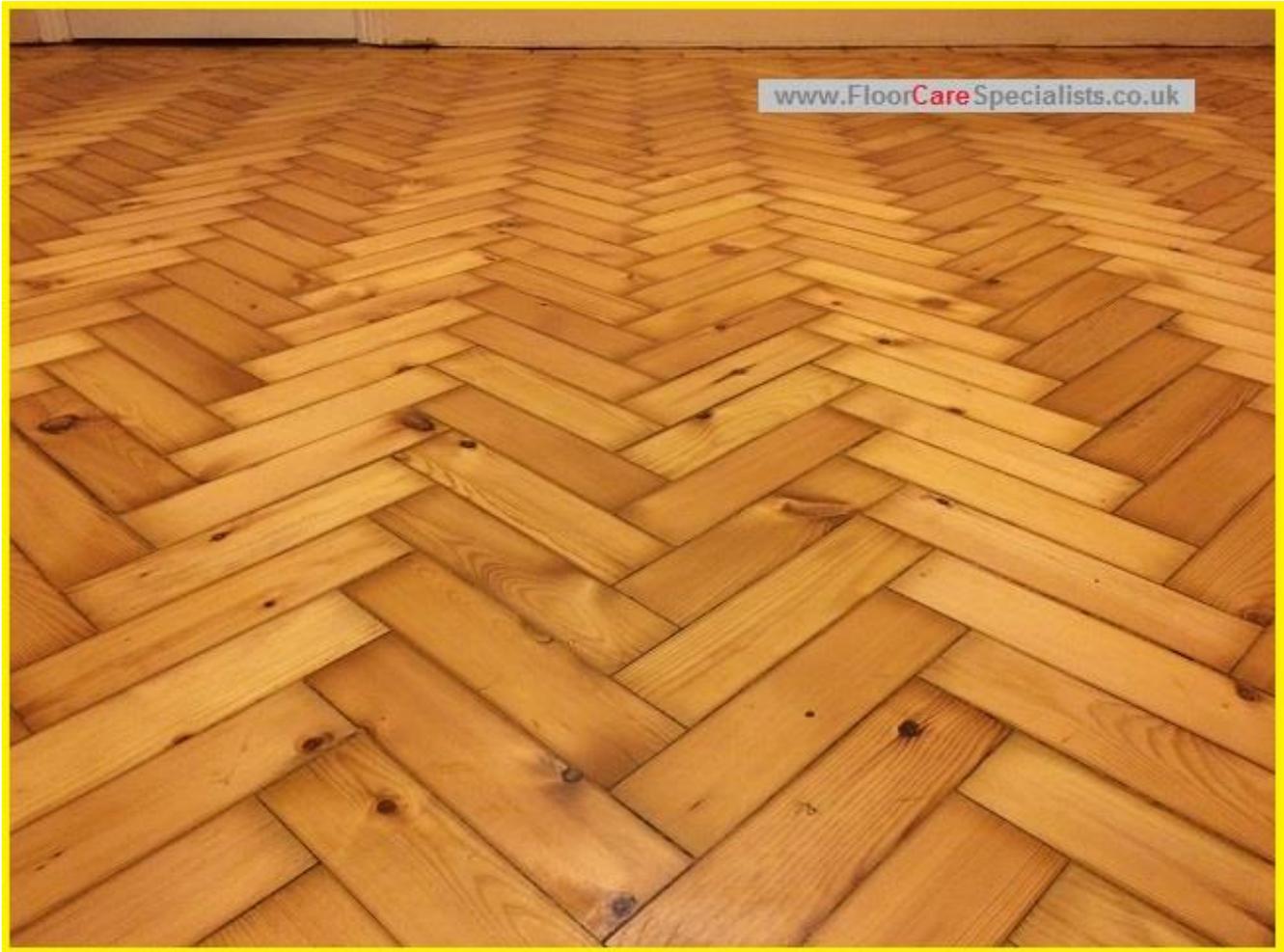
One major downside of lacquer is that it tends to show scratches more easily than oiled floors. If there are any damaged areas or when the floor starts to look tired and worn the only way to 'renew' it is to re-sand and re-finish the whole floor.

Durability

Lacquered floors are tough and durable. Especially if a 2-part hardener is used. This is why you will find that most school halls/gyms etc have a lacquer finish rather than an oiled finish.

What about Oil?

Oil is the modern-day equivalent of your grandparents getting on their hands and knees and waxing the floors. Most Oils are a hardwax oil that enhances the natural beauty of the wood whilst providing an impregnating seal. Oil soaks into the wood providing both a surface protection and a deep penetrating protection and is a perfect solution if you are looking for a more natural, matt finish to your floor.



Caring for an oiled floor

Oil will take slightly more effort to clean than a lacquered floor if you don't have adequate door mats etc to help protect the floor. Cleaning is the same as a lacquered floor so a flat mop should be sufficient but periodic deep clean may be required to remove any ground in soil. As with lacquered floors, never leave lots of water on the floor for any given time.

The good thing about oiled floors is that any scratches or small areas of damage can be taken care of and the floor re-oiled locally – so you won't need to have the whole floor renovated.

Durability

There's also a care product for maintenance that has 're-fresher' ingredients helping to maintain that newly oiled floor look. This used on every deep clean will look after the floor for many years.