Cork Flooring Maintenance Guide

For finished cork flooring with an HDF core

Keep your floor clean, comfortable, and looking its best with gentle cleaning and timely finish care. This guide explains everyday protection, routine cleaning, maintenance polish, deep cleaning, and when to get professional help.

Start with four good habits

Dry clean first. Remove grit before it can scratch the finish.

Use minimal moisture. Clean spills promptly and never leave puddles.

Choose compatible products. A spare plank makes a better test area than the middle of the room.

Match care to traffic. More dirt and heavier use mean more attention, not stronger chemicals.

Find what you need

General rules and protection 2
Routine cleaning and products to avoid 3
Applying maintenance polish 4
Deep cleaning and removing buildup 5
Joint protection and finish repairs 6
Product reference and quick care checklist 7

1 General Rules and Protection

A little prevention is easier than repairing a worn finish. Set the cleaning frequency to the amount and type of traffic and how quickly dirt accumulates. In managed or commercial spaces, the maintenance contractor is responsible for a program suited to the site.

Keep dirt and moisture at the door

- Place suitable doormats outside and inside every entrance so shoes leave grit, dirt, and moisture behind. Keep the mats clean and dry.
- Use breathable rugs in wear areas, such as near a kitchen sink, at the end of steps, and along busy pathways. Remove spills promptly and never leave a saturated mat on the cork floor.
- Avoid rubber, vinyl, and other synthetic non-breathable backings. Prolonged contact with plasticizers in rubber, latex, or plastics can permanently stain the finish. Confirm mat and pad compatibility with your manufacturer representative.

Protect against scratches and dents

- Fit protective pads or caps to furniture legs and keep them clean. For rolling chairs, use suitable wide, soft casters and a compatible protective mat that will not trap moisture or stain the finish.
- Keep pet nails trimmed. Avoid walking on the floor in high heels, and keep heels in good repair to reduce concentrated loads.

Move heavy objects with care

Lift furniture rather than sliding it. If an item cannot be lifted clear, first remove all grit, then place a clean blanket and a solid protective panel beneath it. Move it gently with adequate help, keeping the protection in position. Do not use cardboard as moving protection.

Pro Tip: A chair with grit under its feet is a very small sanding machine. Check the pads before giving it another job.

Manage sunlight and room conditions

Cork is natural and may fade after prolonged sunlight exposure. Use blinds or curtains to reduce direct sun. Where practical, change rug and furniture positions occasionally to help limit uneven color change.

Keep stable occupied room conditions and follow the flooring installation guide. For this cork floating construction, maintain 35–65% relative humidity. Keep spare planks for future repairs and for testing new cleaning products.

2 Routine Cleaning

Remove dirt while it is still loose. Sand, dust, and grit can abrade or dull the finish. Clean as often as your room needs; there is no single schedule for every household or building.

1. **Dry clean.** Use a soft broom, dry microfiber mop, or suitable vacuum without an abrasive brush or head. Remove grit before using a damp pad.
2. **Treat remaining marks.** Use an appropriate pH-neutral cleaner confirmed suitable for the exact finish. Follow its label and technical data sheet, and test new products on a spare plank first.
3. **Lightly damp clean when needed.** Occasionally clean the whole floor with minimal solution. Lightly mist the surface or spray the cleaner directly onto the cleaning pad. Do not wet-mop, flood, or steam-clean the floor.
4. **Remove liquids promptly.** Wipe spills and excess solution immediately. Pay particular attention to joints, pet bowls, and the edges of mats. Moisture resistance does not make the floor a puddle-storage system.

Keep these products off the finished floor

Avoid	Why or what to use instead
Ammonia cleaners, bleach, and acids such as vinegar	They can dull or etch the finish. Use a compatible pH-neutral cleaner.
Wax products, oil soap, and generic acrylic finishes	They are excluded by the factory care instructions. Use only an exact maintenance product confirmed for the finish.
Abrasive cleaning soaps and harsh solvents	They can damage the surface. Do not scrub with an unapproved abrasive pad.

Read the actual label: Do not assume that “safe for floors,” “natural,” or “extra shine” means suitable for your finished cork floor. Ask your manufacturer representative if compatibility is unclear.

3 Applying Maintenance Polish

A compatible maintenance polish adds a sacrificial protective layer, can fill fine surface scratches, and can restore a more even sheen. Apply it before significant finish wear develops. Traffic and local conditions determine when it is needed; do not polish by the calendar alone.

Clean carefully before adding a layer

1 **Confirm the exact polish.** Use the product recommended for your specific finish. Review its label and technical data sheet before starting. A maintenance polish is different from a varnish or permanent finish coat.

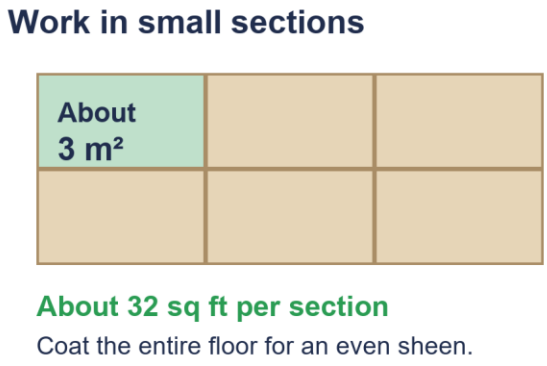
2 **Remove grit and clean thoroughly.** Dry-mop, sweep, or vacuum, then clean with the compatible pH-neutral cleaner. Repeat cleaning if necessary so dirt is not trapped beneath the coating.

3 **Let the floor dry completely.** Do not apply polish to a damp surface or while moisture remains in the joints.

Apply a thin even coat

4 **Use a microfiber applicator pad.** Apply the recommended maintenance polish undiluted in a thin, even coat. Work in small sections of about 32 sq ft (3 m²). Follow the exact product instructions.

5 **Finish the entire floor.** Work methodically across the room to produce an even appearance and sheen. Keep people and pets away from the wet coating.



These timing guidelines apply to maintenance polish. Varnish recoating has its own product-specific cure schedule.

6 **Allow drying and protect the coating.** Full drying is normally achieved overnight. Keep heavy traffic off, and do not replace furniture or rugs, for at least 24 hours after coating. Follow a longer drying or use restriction if the product requires it.

Pro Tip: Plan the route back to the doorway before coating. Finishing beautifully in the far corner is less satisfying when you are standing in it.

4 Deep Cleaning and Buildup

Deep cleaning is for heavy grime or buildup that routine methods cannot remove. It is not a stronger version of the daily clean. Carry it out as seldom as possible, using the recommended remover and a method suitable for the finish.

Confirm the system before starting

Check the exact remover, dilution, dwell time, scrubbing pad, and recovery method with the product instructions and your manufacturer representative. Work manually or with suitable mechanical equipment; a trained maintenance contractor is a sensible choice for a large or heavily soiled area.

Work in small controlled sections

1. **Remove loose soil.** Sweep, dry-mop, or vacuum first so grit is not dragged across the finish.
2. **Prepare the remover.** Dilute it as directed on its current label. Do not guess at concentration or substitute a harsh household cleaner.
3. **Apply and allow a short dwell.** Moisten only the section being treated with the diluted solution and allow it to act briefly as instructed. Use the minimum solution necessary and protect joints from excess moisture. Do not leave puddles.
4. **Scrub with the specified pad.** The factory method uses a green pad. Confirm the exact pad is compatible with both the remover and this floor finish before use; pad color alone is not a guarantee of suitability.
5. **Remove the solution promptly.** Wipe it away or recover it with equipment rated for liquid pickup. An ordinary dry-only vacuum is not suitable for this step.
6. **Wipe with clean water.** Go over the treated floor with a moist mop or cloth, using minimal water to remove remaining cleaning solution.
7. **Dry fully and renew the care layer.** Once the floor is completely dry, apply the compatible maintenance polish using the procedure and drying precautions on page 4.

Do not skip the final care layer: The factory sequence ends with maintenance polish after the floor dries. Arrange the cleaning and follow-up treatment together so the work can be completed properly.

If the surface still looks wrong

Stop if the finish becomes cloudy, tacky, uneven, or visibly damaged. Ask your manufacturer representative or a qualified flooring-care professional to identify the cause before trying a stronger cleaner, rougher pad, or another coating.

5 Joint Protection and Repairs

Give joints extra attention where use is heavy

Prefinished planks still have joints where water and dirt can enter. Protecting those joints is especially important in high-traffic areas or where damp cleaning is frequent.

The factory care method allows one or two coats of a recommended varnish after installation to help protect the joints. Before applying any coating, have your manufacturer representative confirm compatibility with the exact factory finish and flooring construction, and obtain the complete preparation and application instructions.

Use a qualified professional for varnish work: Choose the approved coating system, confirm adhesion and preparation, and follow its coverage, drying, and cure requirements. The overnight and 24-hour polish guidelines on page 4 must not be used as a varnish cure schedule.

Know which treatment you are planning

Treatment	Purpose
Routine cleaning	Removes loose soil and marks with a dry or minimally damp method.
Maintenance polish	Adds a renewable protective care layer before significant wear develops.
Deep cleaning or stripping	Removes heavy grime or care-product buildup; maintenance polish follows after drying.
Varnish recoating	Adds a compatible finish coating after the required preparation. Confirm the complete system before application.

Treat damage according to its cause

Fine surface scratches Clean gently first. A suitable maintenance polish can fill some micro-scratches; it will not rebuild a deep gouge or reverse moisture damage.

Deep gouges or damaged planks Ask a flooring professional whether an approved local repair or plank replacement is appropriate. Your saved spare planks are useful here.

Worn finish or adhesive residue Ask your manufacturer representative for the exact repair or removal method. Do not assume that a hardwood sanding procedure, solvent, oil, or scratch-removal product is suitable for this cork floor.

Keep a record of cleaners, polishes, and coatings already used. That history helps a professional plan cleaning, adhesion testing, and any later recoating without unpleasant surprises.

6 Products and Quick Reference

Use products suited to the exact finish and to the job you are doing. The factory care specification lists the examples below. Names and formulations can change, so confirm the exact current product with your manufacturer representative before use; this list is not blanket approval of every product in a brand's range.

Job	Examples listed in the factory care specification
Routine cleaning	Loba Cleaner; Bona Cleaner; Dr. Schutz Wood & Cork Floor Cleaner
Maintenance polish	Loba KorkCare / Loba FloorCare; Bona Polish; Dr. Schutz Wood & Cork Floor Polish
Deep cleaning	Loba CareRemover; Bona Remover; Dr. Schutz Wood Floor Deep Clean
Varnish recoating	Lobadur WS 2K Duo; Bona Traffic; Dr. Schutz PU Sealer

Follow the current packaging labels and technical data sheets. Confirm dilution, applicator or pad, compatibility with previous care layers, and drying restrictions. Never substitute a generic wax, acrylic finish, or "shine" product for the specifically recommended maintenance treatment.

Your quick care checklist

- Remove grit promptly and use clean, dry entrance mats and breathable rugs.
- Use furniture pads, trim pet nails, lift heavy objects, and reduce direct sunlight.
- Dry clean first; use a compatible pH-neutral cleaner with minimal moisture. No wet mop, steam mop, or puddles.
- Polish before significant wear: clean thoroughly, dry completely, apply a thin even undiluted coat with a microfiber pad, and work in about 32 sq ft (3 m²) sections.
- Allow polish to dry normally overnight. Wait at least 24 hours before heavy traffic, furniture, or rugs; follow any longer product restriction.
- Deep clean infrequently, recover solution promptly, wipe with clean water, dry fully, then renew the maintenance-polish layer.