

# Eurostyle Timber Floors

## **‘HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME BEFORE THE FLOORS GET SANDED’**



-Sandra Maspero

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# ‘How to prepare your home before the floors get sanded’

## Tips for the Home Owner:

- If building or renovating, the start date for sanding and coating floors is critical particularly in relation to other trades.
- Carpentry, electrical, plastering, plumbing and glazing must be completed before work on the floor can commence.
- It is recommended that all painting except the final coat on skirting boards be completed before the floor is coated.
- Seal any access areas such as fireplaces and vents that could allow dust to enter the room – use masking tape and paper.
- Cover large windows to minimise excessive heat while the coating is drying.
- Carpets should be laid after all floor coating is finished.
- Gas and electrical appliances are to be disconnected by qualified personnel. All pilot lights (including hot water system) are to be turned off (solvent/oil-based finishes only).
- Cover all non-movable furnishings using paper, drop sheets or plastic (using masking tape to secure).
- Remove all pets from house.



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# Things to keep in mind:

- Any silicone on a floor will cause rejection of subsequent coats. Silicone or silicone-based products also include spray on ironing aids.
- Halogen down lights can highlight sanding marks. Sanding is necessary in between coats for adhesion.
- You may get slight marking on skirting boards from contact with the Edger. That is why it is recommended to leave painting of skirtings until after the floors are finished.
- You are likely to get some variation in colour and grain between new and old boards.
- If sanding only part of a house that already has existing floorboards there will be a colour difference between the newly sanded floor and the existing coating. This is more so if the existing coating is a solvent polyurethane varnish.
- The difference can be even 3-4 shades difference depending on how long ago the other area was completed and the existing coating. In this case sanding the entire area is the only way to have a uniform colour.
- Modern sanding machinery is fitted with dust collecting equipment, but it is impossible to eliminate all dust particles from the job. Some dust particles will settle on the finished surface, and they may be an amount of dust throughout the house.
- Removal of deep cuts or gouges from the floor is not possible.
- Some stains in boards and around nails that have oxidized may still be visible.
- Gaps between boards are not always filled due to subsequent shrinkage and expansion of timber which can cause the filler to crack.

\*Please use as a guide only and discuss these items with your floor sander as they are not related to the type of coating used.

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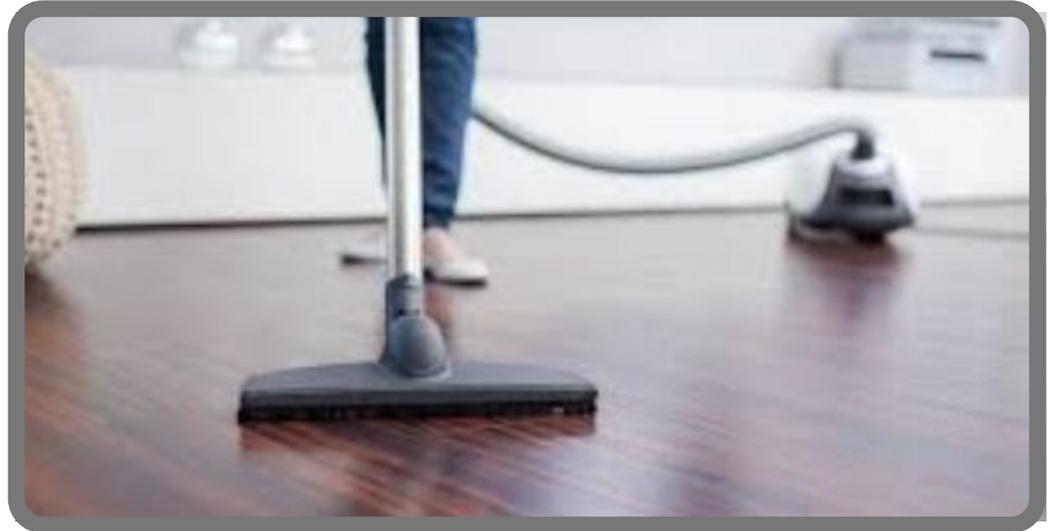
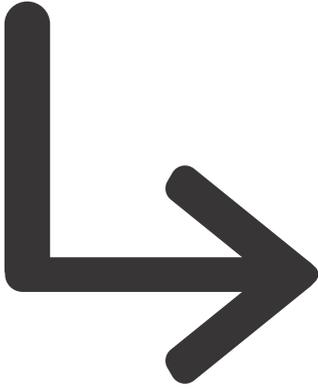
## Some simple tips to avoid damage to you freshly sanded timber floor:

- Don't wash a freshly coated floor for the first two weeks so as to allow it to cure fully.
- Don't clean wooden floors with an overly wet mop. Too much water can cause the floor to swell, warp or turn grey and tends to leave unsightly water marks on the floor especially if it's a shiny finish. Ensure the mop is really wrung out well. There are also many micro fiber flat mops available on the market that work well. You can also use a spray bottle with mild detergent (even white vinegar diluted with water works well) and spray onto area you want to spot clean.
- Don't use wax, soap on wooden floors coated with finish. They can dull the floor's finish. Use a small amount mild ammonia free product diluted in some water if needed or you can spot clean. (use of a spray bottle and mop)



- Avoid using excessive amounts of water, always use a well wrung out mop, if spills occur remove as quickly as possible. We don't recommend the use of STEAM MOPS.
- Don't let sand, dirt or grit build up. They can act like sandpaper: abrading and dulling your floor finish. Vacuum your floors regularly with a soft bristle brush vacuum. Once every week minimum is recommended.

## Soft bristled brush vacuum head



- Place mats at exterior doors to trap sand and grit. Use rugs in high traffic pathways, at the ends of stairs and near doorways. Avoid rubber backing or non-ventilated rugs.
- Remove spills promptly.

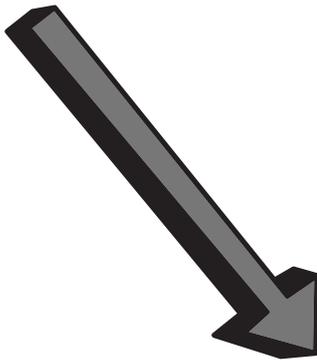


- Use protective pads or caps under all furniture, lounges, chairs and tables even beds. Self-adhesive felt pads are the easiest but single most effective way of protecting your floor from scratches. There are many different types available on the market so find what works best for your furniture.

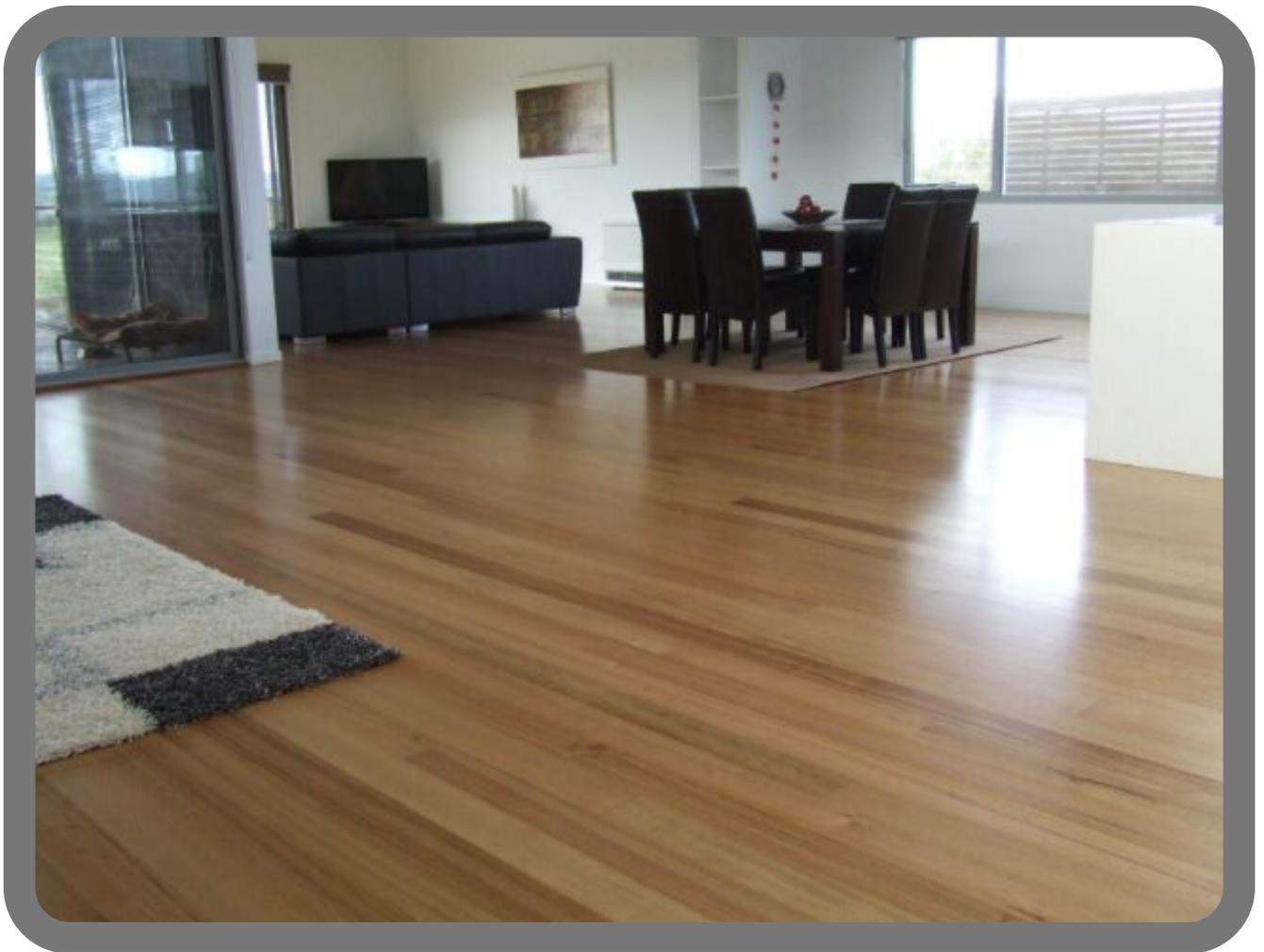
- Felt pads will also allow you to slide furniture around with relative ease, to clean under them without creating damage to your floor. You can purchase products needed to suit your furniture either at Hardware stores, online and even discount \$2 stores have them.



- Chairs with castors can create a lot of damage a floor so we recommend either using a mat or small rug underneath the chair to protect the floor.



- Never slide or roll furniture or appliances across your floor.
- Trim your pet's claws. Proper claw trimming helps avoid scratches and gouges.
- We recommend a maintenance coat (or re-coat – light sand and coat) every few years as this will camouflage any minor scratches and revives the sheen level of the floor keeps the floor looking good. This is a more economical option in the long run (a full sand and coat costs about at least 3 to 4 times more) regularly re-coating the floor also extends the life of your timber floor as precious millimeters of timber are sanded off each FULL sand back you do. This procedure is also recommended for engineered timber.



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