

Technical Newsletter #5

Aayers recommendations to fix scratches on hardwood floors

Method C- Deep Scratches

Step 1- Clean the scratched area.

If the protective coating of the hardwood floor is scratched, use a soft rag (such as a microfiber cloth) and a small amount of hardwood floor cleaner to remove any contaminants from the scratched area.

Note: Any small dust particles must be removed from the scratched area so they don't get preserved in the floor when you add sealant.

Step 2- Rinse off the cleaner.

After cleaning the scratched area of the floor, dampen another rag with water, and wipe down the scratched area to remove the cleanser. Let the scratched area dry before moving on.

Step 3- Rub mineral spirits over the scratch.

Aayers hardwood floors are coated with a layer of polyurethane, the layer must be removed before you can fix the scratch. Dampen a scouring pad with mineral spirits, and gently rub the scratched area of the floor. Wipe over the area with a clean cloth, and let the area dry completely.

Note: If you are inexperienced with woodworking and sealing, it's advisable to hire a professional to repair the flooring.

Step 4- Fill in the scratch.

Apply a small amount of wood filler that is similar to the color of your hardwood floor, to your pointer finger. Use your finger to work the wood filler into the scratch, spreading the filler in all directions to remove air bubbles. You can be generous with the wood filler, because excess filler will be removed later.

Note: Be sure to apply wood filler rather than wood putty. The two substances are different, and using wood putty to fill the scratch can alter the effectiveness of matching the filling to the color of the floor.

Step 5- Wipe off excess filling.

Drag a putty knife over the wood filler to smooth out the surface, and help push the wood filler into the scratch. Drag the putty knife over the scratch, moving in many directions, to ensure the edges of the scratch and filler are flat and even.

Note: Allow the wood filler to completely dry. This may take anywhere from a few hours to an entire day, so consult the information on the package of filler for drying time.

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Step 6- Sand excess filling.

Use a small pad of fine grit sandpaper, perhaps 180-grit, and gently sand the area surround the scratch where excess wood filler has been spread.

Note: Be sure to sand very lightly.

Step 7- Wipe away excess filling.

Dampen a cloth with water and wring it out. The cloth should be moisten but relatively dry to the touch. Use you finger to precisely wipe away the excess filler surrounding the scratch.

Note: Be sure to wipe the areas where filler has been spread, and avoid wiping over the actual filled scratch.

Step 8- Seal the patched area.

Apply a thin layer of the same sealer used on the rest of the hardwood floor to the patched area. Use either a small, natural bristle brush or a lambswool roller to apply the layer of polyurethane, varnish, or sealer.

Note: Aayers Floors recommend “Klumpp Sealant”. More info, please refer to <http://www.klumpp-coatings.com/>

Allow the sealer a complete 24 hours to dry before any traffic is allowed on the surface.

Note: Don't use a foam roller, you run the risk of leaving air bubbles in the sealer.