

# Bella Citta Maintenance Guide

Antiqued & Oiled Hardwood Flooring



Like any other floor finishes, oiled floors must be maintained in order to provide maximum protection and luster and are meant to be periodically re-oiled. With the proper care, Bella Citta Floor will last a lifetime and will never have to be sanded. Maintenance is easy!

## NATURAL WOOD

### Things you need to know about your hardwood flooring.

Hardwood floor is a product of nature. Wood is a hygroscopic material. This means that wood is breathing and always tries to reach the same moisture content of the air in the environment.

Through the seasonal changes, as the relative humidity of the air increases, the fibers of the wood absorb moisture causing the wood planks to expand. Conversely, as the humidity of the air decreases, the fibers of the wood expel moisture causing wood planks to contract. This explains why wood flooring may have cracks between the boards during the cold & dry winter months. Therefore some degree of gapping between the floor joint during the dry season or environment is normal. The joints close up by themselves when the relative humidity goes up again. However if the changes are severe the shrinkage and the gapping could become permanent. It is essential to keep the environment stable with the room temperature between 65-75° F and a relative humidity of 45-55% all year around to minimize the seasonal changes.



## Preventive Maintenance

- Place high-quality floor mats and area rugs near outside entrances and high traffic areas to prevent any abrasive substances being tracked onto the flooring. If you have wood flooring in your kitchen, a throw rug with a soft or felt backing should be placed in front of the sink area to catch spills and splashes.
- Attach felt floor protectors on furniture legs, including chairs, tables, sofas, etc. that sit directly on the floor. Never place plants directly onto a floor. Always use a pot stand or dish.
- Wipe up any spills and spots immediately with a damp cloth.
- Keep outside shoes (especially high heels) off the floor.
- Keep pet nails trimmed.
- Shade windows to protect the floor from exposure to excessive sunlight.
- Try to move around the rugs or furniture periodically to have the floor age evenly.
- Do not use any harsh chemicals or products (e.g. ammonia or oil-based wax, polish, household dust treatment chemicals, abrasive cleaners, furniture cleaners) other than Bella Citta maintenance products on your floor.

# Regular Maintenance

## Daily cleaning of the floor:

- Daily and weekly cleaning can be done by sweeping or vacuuming with a brush attachment or dust mopping. Keeping your floor clean will prevent sand or abrasive substances buildup that can scratch your floor.
- Only dry-clean the newly oiled floor during the first 10 days to allow the Bella Citta's Euro Maintenance Oil to completely cure.

## Periodic cleaning of the floor (note Fig.1):

- Dry-clean the floor before the wet cleaning.
- Follow recommended procedures of the Bella Citta "Euro Cleaner" for regular or frequent cleaning.

## Annual (or as needed) Maintenance of the floor (note Fig. 2)

Depending on the intensity of use, treatment with Bella Citta's Euro Maintenance Oil must be carried out regularly in order to keep the floor in optimum condition. Bella Citta's Euro Maintenance Oil is available in either "White" or "Natural". Please refer to our Bella Citta specification guide to ensure that the correct color of Bella Citta Euro Maintenance Oil is used in conjunction with the flooring you purchased. Some Bella Citta colors require "White" while others require "Natural" to maintain the original color tone. Use of the incorrect color will permanently alter the color of your floor.

Usage: 1-2 times a year for normal use (low traffic residential), 3-4 times a year for intensive use (high traffic residential and commercial).

- First thoroughly clean the floor with Bella Citta Euro Cleaner and allow it to dry completely. Floor surface must be completely dry and clean, free of dirt and dust.
- Apply Bella Citta's Euro Maintenance Oil to small areas in an even and thin layer with a cloth along the grain of the wood (Fig #2). For larger areas we recommend using a buffing machine (Fig #3). Dribble the Bella Citta's Euro Maintenance Oil in the shape of a snake and polish it in with a buffing machine with a thick white pad (diagram 3).
- 1 liter (33.82 fl.oz) of Bella Citta's Euro Maintenance Oil is sufficient for approximately 70 to 100 m<sup>2</sup> (750-1,075 SF).
- After maintenance oil application, allow newly coated floor to dry for at least 12 hours before exposing to light foot traffic. Wait 48 hours after maintenance oil application to allow for proper cure time before moving furniture and appliances onto the flooring surface.

