

## Protection and Maintenance For Carriage House Wood Floors

Lasting beauty can be achieved through purchasing a quality floor covering and providing proper on-going maintenance.

### PROPERTIES

Fading: Where possible, use drapes or other systems to protect your floor from excessive light.

Joints: Wood floor systems expand and contract in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity that should be maintained to a minimum by using a humidifier when necessary.

### PROTECTION

You may protect your floor by taking the following precautions:

- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Spills should be wiped up immediately.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs as they keep the wood from "breathing" and may cause discoloration.
- In the kitchen, use a rug in front of the working areas, such as the stove and sink, to prevent local premature wear.
- Weight distribution is a key factor in preventing indentation.
- Install proper protectors under "feet" of furniture. Furniture will require different types of protectors in order to achieve maximum weight distribution. Resilient pads such as those made of felt, flexible rubber, and saucer-shaped plastic glides will work for most furniture.
- Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters. A protective mat should be used under office chairs.
- Maintain a constant humidity level in the room. If necessary, use a humidifier.
- Periodically check floor for signs of wear. Once a year or when needed, use Natural Cork's recommended polish to eliminate fine scratches and rejuvenate the floor.
- Never use tape or other adhesive products on the floor surface.

### MAINTENANCE

Sweep or vacuum the floor frequently in order to avoid build up of abrasive particles. To clean, use only cleaners specified for use on pre-finished hardwood floors available from your local retailer or home center. Mist the cleaner on a mop for hardwood floors. WET MAINTENANCE IS ENTIRELY FORBIDDEN! Apply a recommended wood floor polish once a year or when needed to eliminate fine scratches and rejuvenate the floor. Follow manufacturer directions when using any maintenance product.

### RECOATING THE FLOOR

Failure to properly maintain the finish could result in irreparable damage. The longevity of the finish is relative to traffic intensity and quality of floor care. When the floor starts to show a traffic pattern and signs of wear it is time to renew the finish. It is the responsibility of the owner to judge when the floor needs recoating. A new coat of a recommended water based polyurethane will make the floor look new again and prolong its lifespan. Natural Cork recommends that a flooring professional be employed for this process and that strict adherence to the finish manufacturer's guidelines be observed.