Our Prefinished Floors

How we finish, what goes on your floor, and how to care for it

> Every Vermont Plank prefinished floor is finished in our Brattleboro, Vermont shop, steps from where we mill it. Your floor arrives with its color and protective finish already in place, matched to a sample you approved, and ready to live on the day it's installed. This guide explains how we finish, the products we use and how to care for a prefinished floor.

COLOR STARTS WITH THE WOOD

The most important color decision is the wood itself. Species, cut and grade set a floor's natural tone and character: the warm honey of white oak, the ray fleck of rift & quarter sawn, the deep browns of walnut, the knots and color variation of a character grade. We select the timber for every order, and our finishes are designed to bring out what is already in the wood, not to cover it.

- **Natural-tone finishes** keep the floor close to the look of freshly milled wood and let the species speak for itself.
- **Toned and stained finishes** warm, deepen, soften or cool that natural color while keeping the grain clear and visible.
- **Samples and natural variation:** we work hard to make sure every sample is representative, and you approve and sign one before we finish your floor. Still, no single sample can show the full range of color and grain across an entire floor. Expect natural variation from board to board; it's part of what makes a wood floor beautiful.
- **Custom finishes** are available by request. Our finishing team develops them through rounds of samples until the color is right.

THREE WAYS WE FINISH

Depending on the finish, surface and plank width, your floor is finished one of three ways. Each is built to the same standard, and each ends with a durable topcoat applied and cured in our shop.

Method	How it works	Used for
Line finished	Sherwin-Williams sealer and topcoat are roll-coated on our finishing line, each coat laid down at an even thickness and cured with ultraviolet light before the next.	Natural-tone finishes, such as Hardwick
Hybrid	Oils, stains, dyes and sealers are applied by hand, where a finisher's judgment matters most. The Sherwin-Williams topcoat then goes on at the line for a smooth, consistent surface on every plank.	Many of our finishes, such as Landgrove
Hand finished	Every coat, from color to topcoat, is applied by hand, then cured in the shop. The topcoat is LOBA 2K Duo, a two-component professional floor finish.	Every textured surface, and planks wider than 12″

Textured surfaces such as wire brushing, hand scraping and saw marks can't run through a roll-coat line, so they are always finished by hand. Every prefinished customer receives a care guide written for their floor, listing the finishing method and each product used.

THE FINISH, LAYER BY LAYER

Layer	Product	What it does
Color	Oils, stains, dyes and sealers, applied by hand	Brings out the wood's natural tone and grain and gives the floor its finished color; the sealer locks it in and prepares the surface for the topcoat
Fill	Black wood filler, by hand, where specified	Fills open knots and checks on character grade floors for a smooth, finished surface
Sealer	Sherwin-Williams ULTRA-CURE® 4032-L Low Gloss Clear Sealer (line)	Builds a clear, flexible base with a low sheen that hides shiny spots in the grain and bevels
Topcoat	Sherwin-Williams ULTRA-CURE® MarGuard™ Topcoat in Matte or Satin (line)	The wear layer: resists scratches, scuffs, stains, household chemicals and moisture

Layer	Product	What it does
Topcoat	LOBA® 2K Duo in Matte or Satin (hand finished)	A two-component, water-based polyurethane rated for high-traffic commercial floors; tough, crystal clear and color-stable for years

WHY IT HOLDS UP

Sherwin-Williams MarGuard (line)

- **Scratch and mar resistance.** Built to resist scratches and marring; scratches that do happen stay clear, so they're harder to see.
- **Stain, chemical and moisture resistance.** Holds its smooth finish and even sheen against household cleaners and spills.
- **Consistent on every plank.** The line applies every coat at the same thickness, with no pooling, streaks or heavy edges.

LOBA 2K Duo (hand)

- **Commercial-grade durability.** Two components cross-link as the finish cures for a hard, abrasion-resistant surface.
- **Follows the texture.** Applied by hand, it coats every contour of a textured plank without filling it in.
- **Clear and true.** A water-based finish that stays crystal clear, so the wood's natural color shows through for years.

SHEEN

We offer two sheens, both chosen to show the wood rather than the finish and to hide everyday wear far better than a glossy floor. We never finish with full gloss.

Matte	Our lowest standard sheen: a soft, natural look that reads close to bare wood
Satin	A touch more sheen, with a warm glow that shows off color and grain

A HEALTHY HOME

Formaldehyde-free finishes
Every finish product we use, by hand or on the line, is formaldehyde-free.

Certified low-emitting
Our engineered flooring is independently certified low-emitting to CDPH v1.2, the strictest indoor-air standard in the country.

Ready on arrival
Finishing happens in our shop, not your home: no on-site sanding, finishing or drying time before you move back in.

MILLED & FINISHED IN BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT • FORMALDEHYDE-FREE FINISHES • READY TO LIVE ON

PREFINISHED OR SITE-FINISHED?

We also supply unfinished floors for finishing on site. Here is how the two compare:

	Prefinished by Vermont Plank	Finished on site
Where it's finished	In our shop, under controlled temperature, humidity and light	In your home, after installation
Color approval	A finished sample you approve and sign before we finish your floor	Samples made on site by your finisher
Time on site	Ready to live on as soon as it's installed	Several days of sanding, coating and drying after installation
Dust & disruption	No sanding or finishing in the house	Sanding dust and finishing work; the room is off-limits while it cures
Care afterward	A care guide written for your floor's specific finish	Follow your finisher's product instructions

CARING FOR A PREFINISHED FLOOR

A prefinished floor needs no waxing, oiling or special treatments. Simple habits keep it looking its best for decades:

Cleaning

- **Sweep or dust mop often** with a microfiber dust mop or soft-bristle broom (best for textured floors) to pick up grit before it scratches.
- **Vacuum on the bare-floor setting** only, never with a rotating beater bar.
- **Damp clean as needed:** mist a microfiber pad with a pH-neutral hardwood floor cleaner (such as Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner).
- **Blot spills right away.** Never let water stand on the floor.

Protection

- **Felt pads** under all furniture legs, replaced when worn or gritty.
- **Mats at exterior doors;** rug pads made for finished hardwood, not rubber-backed rugs.
- **Lift, don't drag** furniture, and keep pet nails trimmed.
- **Rotate rugs and furniture** now and then: all wood mellows with light, and this keeps the color even.

Humidity

Keep indoor relative humidity between **35% and 55%** year-round: a humidifier in the heating season, air conditioning or a dehumidifier in humid months. It is the most important thing you can do for a wide plank floor, and it is required by our warranty.

Never use

Wax, polish or oil soaps; vinegar, ammonia, bleach or all-purpose cleaners; steam mops or wet mopping; steel wool or scouring pads.

AFTER INSTALLATION

- **Protect the floor while other trades work** with a breathable floor protection board such as Ram Board, not plastic sheeting, and never tape directly to the finish.
- **Keep spare planks** stored flat in a dry, conditioned space. They are the best match for any future repair.

REPAIRS & LONG-TERM CARE

Light scuffs	Most buff out with a microfiber cloth and hardwood floor cleaner. A clear finish-blending pen in your sheen hides fine scratches.
Scratch through to the color	Call us with your job number. We keep a record of every finish and recommend touch-up products matched to your floor.
Damaged board	A flooring professional can replace a single board without refinishing the floor. Keep a few spare planks from your order for this.
Wear after years of use	A professional can screen and recoat the floor with a compatible finish before wear reaches bare wood. Both our solid and engineered floors can also be fully sanded and refinished.

> **See it in person.** We'll send finished samples of the species, grade and finish you're considering. Request samples or call (802) 441-0981, Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 4:30.