



Here's how to

Sand your Floor

GUIDE





Here's how you can prepare, sand, finish and maintain all types of wooden floors including Parquet, pre-finished and laminates.

***Follow the HSS
Here's How guide and you
will enjoy the satisfaction
of a job well done and the
natural beauty of a wooden
floor that will last for years.***



Planning

HSS provide a complete floor sanding system for all types of wooden floors. It's easy to get professional results.

Plan ahead, you will need to have enough free time to sand and finish your floor. The time needed will depend on the size and condition of the floor. As a rough guide a 6m x 6m (20' x 20') solid hard wood floor in average good condition that is sanded back to new wood will take about 3 days to sand and finish.



Remember to contact your local HSS on

08457 28 28 28

and reserve the sanding equipment you need or reserve on line at

www.hss.com in advance.



Tools

You will need some or all of the following tools and accessories to help you sand and finish your floor:

Hammer • Nail Punch

Personal Protective Equipment

Including **Dust Respirator, Eye Protection** and **Gloves**.

Also **Masking Tape, Carpenters Pencil, Paint Tray** or **Bucket, Applicators, Brushes And Tack Rags**.



If you need any other tools, plan ahead and make sure you have all you need to prepare sand and finish your floor.

Preparation

Remove all furnishings and drapes from the room.

Tape up cupboards and doors to seal against dust.

Remove old floor coverings and loose nails, staples, screws and any other unwanted fixings.

Fix loose or broken boards and parquet, you may need wood filler – available from your HSS branch.



Take care to match any replacement pieces with the existing floor. Small gaps and holes can be filled before the last part of the sanding operation. Take care to get a good match with the surrounding wood.

Fillers will take up finishes and stains differently to the wood. If in doubt always test making sure the filler is compatible with the stains and finish you intend to use. Larger gaps between boards can be filled with a fillet of matching wood. Glue the edges of the fillet and tap into place then plane down level with the floor surface.

Punch down all exposed nails and any other hardware below the floor surface. Repeat as necessary as you sand the floor, if nail heads become exposed. Remove heavy wax, grease and dirt deposits by hand. Sweep the floor clean before sanding.

WARNING – sanding exposed nails can produce sparks creating a fire hazard in the sander dust bag, tear abrasive sheets and discs and damage the floor sander.





Floor Sanding Technique



Drum Floor Sander

Load the sander with abrasive sheets making sure that it is skin tight around the drum- your local HSS staff will show you how to do this when you hire your floor sander. Loose sheets will tear. Place the sander on the right hand wall (unless you are making an angled cut on uneven floors) with about two thirds of the floor in front of you. Start the sander with the drum off the floor then walk forward at an even pace and ease the drum to the floor. As you near the end of the pass, gradually raise the drum off the floor. Practice before turning on the sander.

WARNING – never bounce the sanding drum or dwell in one place, as this will sand dips and hollows in the floor.

Cover the same path you made on the forward cut by pulling the machine backwards. Ease the drum by to the floor as you begin the backward pass until you reach the original starting point then lift the drum off the floor. Move the sander to the left and overlap the first cut by about 7cm (23/4"). Repeat the forward and backward passes moving progressively to the left as you complete each forward and backward pass. When two thirds of the floor is sanded, turn the sander around and sand the remaining third in the same way. Overlap the one third area to blend the two areas together.



Disc Floor Sander (Edger)

Load the abrasive disc making sure the retaining bolt is tight. Start the edger with the disc off the floor then lower the disc to the floor as you move the edger to one side. Sand in the direction of the grain along the walls, moving the edger from side to side. End sanding strokes should be semicircular. Blend the edges into the area sanded by the drum sander.



Orbital Floor Sander

Load the abrasive pad and sheet. Start the sander, move immediately and sand in the direction of the grain using the same technique as the drum sander. For difficult to reach areas use the disc sander with a fine grit abrasive, or sand by hand.

Hand Sanding

To sand difficult to reach areas scrape and sand the floor by hand. Use a scraper to remove old finishes always scraping in the direction of the grain, and then sand by hand using the same grit abrasive as you finished with when machine sanding.



Tricks of the Trade

- ✓ When sanding a floor always aim to remove the minimum amount of wood. Use only as coarse an abrasive as needed. Over sanding reduces the life of the floor and dramatically increase the amount of work to complete the job.
- ✓ Always test sand with a medium to fine grit abrasive first. If this will remove the old finish and generally level the floor on the first cut, you do not have to use the more aggressive coarse grit abrasives.
- ✓ If the floor is uneven, cupped or crowned make sure there is no moisture problem. Make the first rough cut at 45° to the direction of the flooring to obtain a basic level.
- ✓ For new floors or for floors in buildings that have been left without heating always let the floor acclimatise for 1 to 3 weeks to its normal moisture content before sanding and finishing.
- ✓ Check the thickness of the floor before sanding by removing a skirting board, baseboard, moulding or heating register so you can measure the edge of the flooring. This is very important for pre-finished and laminate floors.
- ✓ If the floor has a hollow or deep scratch, make multiple passes forward and backwards across the area starting the first pass at a 30° angle to the hollow or scratch. Finish sanding in the direction of the grain. Only use fine grit abrasive.
- ✓ Use a soft lead carpenter's pencil to mark exposed nails excessive scratches, holes etc. When changing from one abrasive grit to the next do not skip more than one intermediate grit.

Finishing

Tools you will need

Ronseal Diamond Hard Floor Varnish
Wide Brush / Ronseal Pad Applicator



Which Floor Varnish is right for your needs?

It is important to make sure you choose the right Floor Varnish for your floor.



Product Features	Ronseal Heavy Duty Floor Varnish	Ronseal Diamond Hard Floor Varnish	Ronseal Diamond Hard Floor Varnish
Can be used in areas of high wear including kitchens and bathrooms	✓	✓	✓
Unique formulation contains polyurethane for exceptional hardness		✓	✓
Waterbased – low odour and brushes wash out in water		✓	✓
Solvent based – high odour and brushes wash out in white spirit	✓		
Clear finish does not alter the appearance of wood when applied		✓	✓
Clear finish does not yellow with age		✓	✓
Clear finish adds a mellow hue to wood when applied	✓		
Allows you to finish the job in half the time			✓

Varnishing Your Floor

Finishing a wooden floor is a satisfying and visibly rewarding job. As with sanding it is important to be well prepared and to make sure you have enough time to complete the job. This includes leaving the floor for the right amount of time before using it whilst the Floor Varnish dries – after all your hard work you don't want to scratch and mark the floor by using it too soon.

Preparation

Allow ample time to apply the Ronseal Diamond Hard Floor Varnish, it's best to start at the beginning of the day to allow the 3 coats of Ronseal Diamond Hard Floor Varnish required to be applied and to dry all in one day.

If the area to be finished cannot be completed in one day you will need to lightly sand the floor before applying another coat the next day. Three coats are recommended by Ronseal to ensure the highest protection for your floor is achieved, and if you feel it is necessary more coats can be added.

Clean up the whole room taking care to vacuum up dust from window frames, skirting boards, baseboards, doorframes etc. It's a good idea to vacuum several times to allow any airborne dust to settle so the room is as clean as possible.

Inspect the floor carefully. Spot fill missed cracks and nail holes- HSS Mix and Fill is ideal for this. Allow filler to dry hard, then sand or use the small palm sander with the same grit paper as the final machine sanding.

Now remove all traces of dust from the floor by first vacuuming and then wiping over with a rag.

How to apply Floor Varnish

Stir the Floor Varnish thoroughly before and during use and ensure the room is well ventilated. Use a wide brush to apply the varnish evenly and finish in the direction of the wood grain.

Apply a minimum of 3 coat leaving 2 hours between each coat. Be careful not to over brush as this will spread the finish too thinly and affect performance.

Before the final coat, lightly rub down the floor with 240 grade abrasive paper and wipe over with a damp cloth then allow it to dry. The floor will be ready to walk on after 8 hours but allow 72 hours before subjecting it to heavy traffic.

Want beautiful wood in half the time?

Then try the Ronseal Diamond Hard Floor Varnish Applicator pack. It is the only pack to include the standing height pad applicator in the pack. The unique pad means no brush marks, no lap marks and in half the time it takes with a brush!



THE
ULTIMATE
PROTECTION
FOR
VALUED
WOODEN
FLOORS



Floor Sanding made easy...

Floor Sanding Tip

Preparation

1) Use a nail punch and hammer to drive protruding nail heads below the surface. Ensure there are no pipes or cables below.

2) Block up doorways to prevent dust escaping around the house. Open all windows.

3) Use Mix'n'Fill to seal gaps and cracks in floorboards.

- We will give advice on preparation
- Our trained staff will make sure you are fully confident before leaving the shop
- Phone now for free provisional booking and special rates



'A tool for every job'

FAST DELIVERY

You're welcome to collect equipment and we'll help with loading. Or if you prefer, we'll deliver direct to your door – charges vary with distance.

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