



HIRAM FLOORS

*Black Forest Manufacturing*

**Treatment and Maintenance | Lye & Soap**

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## Treatment and Maintenance | Lye & Soap

### Treatment with Lye (8 – 10 m<sup>2</sup>/l)

#### General Information:

The Lye is applied on new or sanded wood surfaces. It creates a lighter surface and reduces natural weathering of the wood, when exposed to sunlight.

#### Tools:

Mop, brush or roller for lye treatment; disc sander with a sanding screen or sandpaper, grit size 100 – 120 and 120- 150 for light sanding after lye treatment. Protection gloves and clothes as well as face protection.

#### Conditions:

The floor must be clean and dry and without any residues. After installation, the untreated floor has to be sanded with grit size 100 – 120. Edges and corners have to be sanded with Delta or Edge sander, afterwards vacuum clean the floor.

#### Treatment Steps:

1. Tape edges of the floor to avoid stains.
2. Shake container to distribute pigmentation evenly.
3. Pour Lye into a bucket, stir it frequently throughout the process.
4. Apply the Lye using a Lye mop, brush or roller, always working in the direction of the grain. Use plenty of Lye and draw excess lye off in the direction of the grain. Use around 1 L per 10 m<sup>2</sup>.
5. Let the floor dry for 15- 20 minutes
6. Sand the floor lightly using a disc sander with a massage pad or lightly sand with grit size 120 – 150.
7. Lightly massage or sand corners and edges with grit size 120 – 150
8. Vacuum clean and let the floor dry for 3- 8 hours.

### Treatment with Soap (8 – 10 m<sup>2</sup>/l)

#### General information:

The soapwater in the wood is replenishing lipids and acts like a body- lotion on the skin. The wood can breathe, stains can be washed out easily and dents can raise up again, with the water penetrating the fibers. The soap layer protects and regenerates with every treatment against daily usage and wear and tear.

#### Tools:

Use a plastic bucket and a mop

## Treatment Steps:

1. Shake the container thoroughly before usage
2. For the first treatment Use 1 L White Soap for 5 L of Water. Apply soapwater on the wood and distribute it evenly, pull all excess soapwater off to avoid stains or residues.
3. Wait 20 – 30 minutes, then repeat treatment. Wait 12 hours to do a third treatment.

### 1. Maintenance of Floorboards treated with Lye & Soap

A natural, high quality wooden floor is fairly easy to maintain, however needs frequent maintenance. Especially areas such as hallways, stores, offices or kitchens are frequently used and need more maintenance than other areas.

In the following text we are explaining what effect floorsoap has on the wood and what should you should pay attention to when maintaining a wooden floor with soap.

### 2. The effects of Floorsoap

Unlike lacquers or oils, floorsoap does not seal the surface of the floor nor does it fill out the pores of the wood. The soapwater in the wood is rather replenishing lipids and acts like a body-lotion on the skin. The wood can breathe, stains can be washed out easily and dents can raise up again, with the water penetrating the fibers.

When the floor is not treated for a longer period of time, the wood will wear and dry out. A regular maintenance is therefore essential. Premium floorsoaps usually consist of vegetable fats, which are particularly soothing for oiled, waxed or soaped floors. The soap layer protects and regenerates with every treatment against daily usage and wear and tear.

### 3. Maintenance Steps with Floorsoap

We advise to do maintenance with floorsoap every 2 weeks or so. Hint: Use two buckets – one should contain water, the other one the soap – water mix.

Mix 5 l lukewarm or cold water with about 100 ml floorsoap. Always wipe in the direction of the grain and use as little of the soap emulsion as possible. Briefly let the wood absorb the water mix and then wipe of any dirt with a mop. Clean the mop with clear water.

After, wipe the floor with clean soapwater and let it dry. Hint: Don't clean with clear water, otherwise the soap layer will be damaged.

When the floor gets too white after a couple of maintenance treatments, use *natural*/soapwater instead of *white* soapwater to control the color pigmentation.