CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

3.- MAINTENANCE

We have used cutting-edge technology in the production of L’Antic Colonial to enable us to harness the special features of an exclusive material such as wood. Parquet is the wood flooring per excellence. It is a material that improves with time, but requires a certain amount of care: a few simple, regular measures to ensure that it is always in top condition. With these few simple tips you can be sure that your wood floor will remain in good condition and retain its value (beauty and character) in the long term.

a) Avoid stepping on the parquet with footwear straight from the street (especially if it is wet or fouled with remains of grit, dirt or mud). We recommend the use of a doormat at the entrance to avoid remains of earth or gravel from entering the house.

b) Certain types of footwear are not recommended (for example high heel shoes can mark the floor). Some types of rubber sole can leave marks on the parquet. However, these marks are only superficial and can be easily removed.

c) Avoid impacts of hard objects against the floor.

d) Place caps or felt under furniture legs to avoid scratching, especially in the case of heavy furniture. Take special care not to drag furniture when changing it from place to place. Direct contact of any type of metal (even stainless) with a wooden floor with may give rise to staining (the metal does not absorb water or moisture and thus channels condensation into the wood).

e) Any liquid spilled on the parquet must be cleaned up and dried immediately to prevent the fluid from seeping between the boards.

f) Wood products are subject to the climatic conditions of their surroundings, which entails constant exchange of moisture. This can cause dimensional changes (the wood dilates when humid and shrinks when dry) and may cause deterioration unless a series of preventive measures are not implemented. Keeping the humidity in the house constant will help to mitigate extreme dilation and contraction of the wood and thus avoid bulging, warping, cracking and black stains. The product must be maintained within the recommended temperature and humidity ranges to get the best results:

- Constant temperature of between 18 and 20 °C
- Relative humidity between 40% and 65% (limits accepted as healthy by the WHO (World Health Organisation).

g) The aforesaid requires special conditioning: ventilation, heating and protection from direct sunlight.

h) Avoid exposing the floor to direct sunlight. Exposure to direct sunlight or strong artificial light may change the original colour of the wood due to the effects of oxidation.

i) It is highly recommended to monitor these aspects carefully if the house will remain closed for long periods of time, taking special care to ensure suitable insulation. Wood cannot be preserved as if it were an inert material.

j) Do not use adhesive bodywork tape or similar products on the flooring. The solvents contained in these products can affect the varnish finishing of the panels and may even remove it entirely.

4.- CLEANING

Dry methods are recommended for daily cleaning. Dust can be removed with a mop or dry cloth. A brush with natural hair exclusively for use on the parquet may also be used for this task. Dirt particles should be removed first with the vacuum cleaner, avoiding dragging them across the varnish which will cause micro-scratches due to friction.

Water used for cleaning should not be mixed with products not recommended, those with high acid content or that contain waxes or silicone. Some abrasive products marketed for use with wood are highly detrimental because they dull the shine and are corrosive in the long term.

Wooden floors can be mopped periodically without fear of damage. This task should be performed only with recommended products and the minimum dosage. The floor should not be excessively wet and the remains of moisture should disappear after around one minute. These remains of water on the parquet should not be dried by hand. The newer the stain is, the easier it will be to clean. Use a damp cloth in the first place and call a specialist if this fails to work. Avoid rubbing hard as this may damage the varnish or protective oil.

Oiled floors must also receive periodic care by applying suitable products from time to time and cleaned with the recommended frequency just like other types of flooring. Cleaning frequency depends on use and each case different. A standard frequency of once a week is recommended. For these purposes L’Antic Colonial recommends using the following products for proper cleaning and maintenance of parquet:

- For partial and occasional cleaning (valid for both the Aprosto and Natur finishes):
  - RMC Surface Care: removed stains like those produced by indelible markers, spilt wine or coffee, etc.
  - RMC Limespot Remove: removes lime stains.
  - RMC Grease Remove: removes grease stains.
  - RMC Soap: deep cleans dust and grease and does not leave a film.

- For wet cleaning:
  - To clean and maintain your wood floor properly we recommend regular wet cleaning with Rmc Soap (Aprosto finish) or Rmc Soap Satin (Natur finish) for varnished and oiled floors.
  - To do so you will require two buckets of water, one with clean water and one with 5 litres of warm water (30 to 40 °C) + 300 ml to 500 ml of either of the above products.
  - Insert a white twisted fibre mop into the bucket containing the mixture.
  - Beat the mixture. Rinse the mop well and clean the surface of the wood panels in the longitudinal direction. Use the bucket of clean, unmixed water to remove the accumulated fouling from the mop before re-charging with the mixture. Repeat these steps as often as necessary.

- For partial and occasional cleaning (valid for both the Aprosto and Natur finishes):
  - As time passes your floor will acquire a unique look. Its appearance changes and evolves due to the effect of the agents in which it is in contact. Areas with more wear or even micro-scratches may be detected.
  - However, its natural condition can be recovered. Wet clean the floor as described above and then apply VOC FREE Rmc Universal Maintenance Oil (available in 5 colours, White, Black, Brown, Grey and Pure).
  - Allow the floor to dry after wet cleaning and then apply a light coat of Universal Maintenance Oil. Spread it over the entire surface evenly with the help of a of white or beige non-abrasive mop. After 5 or 10 minutes remove any excess oil using a white mop (apply the same technique as if you intended to remove all the oil). It will be possible to walk on the floor after 8 hours in well-ventilated areas.