

Hardwood Finishes



MICROPOROUS COATED

The board in the top half of the image is Iroko hardwood with a factory applied microporous stain. This finish offers very good resistance to UV rays as well as enriching and enhancing the hardwood's rich colour. Provided the coating surface does not become broken, the colour will not fade for several years. The microporous coating is however vulnerable to conditions where high moisture and severe cold persists. Conditions as these such can cause the coating to blister and lift.

UNTREATED

The board in the bottom half of the image is Iroko hardwood that has been freshly sanded and left untreated. When left untreated, the hardwood begins to fade within weeks of exposure to sunlight. After some time the timber begins to change to a silver-grey achromatic colour. Despite the difference in appearance, the timber remains structurally sound due to its inherent durability.

Maintaining Microporous Coated Hardwood



MAINTENANCE

The microporous coated hardwood should be cleaned regularly using mild detergents. After sometime maintenance of the finish is required. To determine the necessary course of action, first assess the condition of the coating and follow the instructions below. We have chosen the three most common conditions that may occur with microporous coatings.

1. COATING HAS FADED EVENLY ACROSS THE HARDWOOD BUT HAS NOT BLISTERED OR FLAKED.

Clean the hardwood thoroughly with soapy water and a scouring pad. Lightly sand the surface. If the coating flakes or is easily removed by sanding, follow the steps detailed for instructions 2 or 3. Apply Sikkens Cetol Filter 7 Plus using a brush. Always follow the coating manufacturers instructions carefully.

2. COATING HAS BLISTERED OR FLAKED BUT IN SMALL PATCHES ONLY (2-3 SQ CM).

Where small areas have blistered, this area should be sanded back locally to bare hardwood. Apply Sikkens Cetol Filter 7 Plus, colour 085 Teak to the sanded area only. Once dry, lightly sand all the timber and apply two coats of Sikkens Cetol Filter 7 Plus across the entire timber surface. Always follow the coating manufacturers instructions carefully.

3. COATING HAS BLISTERED OR FLAKED ACROSS LARGE AREAS.

Where large areas have blistered or flaked, that damaged face should be sanded back to bare hardwood. Apply two or three coats of Sikkens Cetol Filter 7. Always follow the coating manufacturers instructions carefully.

Maintaining Unfinished Hardwood



MAINTENANCE

Iroko is an extremely durable hardwood and does not require maintenance to preserve its structural properties. Without maintenance, although it will turn grey, as seen in the left hand side of image above, the structural properties of the timber will not diminish. However, in order to preserve the colour of the timber, regular maintenance is required in the form of cleaning and, if desired, the application of oil or a microporous coating.

Cleaning can be done using a number of methods. For regular cleaning use a scrubbing brush or scouring pad with warm water and a mild detergent. Take care to avoid contact with any metal or painted surfaces on the product when using an abrasive method of cleaning. Timber that has been left for some time unmaintained can be restored using a wood cleaner/restorer product such as Owatrol Net-trol Wood Cleaner and Brightener. Such products are widely available, when applying follow the product's user instructions carefully.

The timber can be brought back to its natural colour by sanding. Start with a coarse sanding block (60 grit) and work up through the grades to finish with 120 grit.