

WOOD FLOOR FINISHES

PERFORMANCE TEST RESULTS

KEY TO RATINGS**: 1 = POOR, 3 = AVERAGE, 5 = EXCELLENT

FINISH TYPE	TYPICAL INGREDIENTS	TYPICAL SOLVENT	DRYING TIME	RETAIL COST PER GALLON	COMMENTS	RESISTANCE TO		RESISTANCE TO STAINS				OVERALL TOUGHNESS RATINGS***
						UV (SUN)	SCUFFING AND DIRT	WATER	GRAPE JUICE	VODKA	PET URINE	
PENETRATING OIL	linseed and tung oil, phenolic resin	mineral spirits	moderate to slow	\$20-25*	Matte to low gloss. Very easy to apply, repair, and recoat. Soaks into wood — no surface film. Scratches don't show easily.	3.2	2.5	4.8	3.9	4.3	2.2	3.4
VARNISH	tung, linseed, and soya oil, alkyd resin	mineral spirits	moderate	\$25-35	Conventional varnish formulations (no polyurethane content). Medium to high gloss. Moderately easy to apply and refinish.	4.8	4.6	5	5	5	4.6	4.8
OIL-MODIFIED POLYURETHANE	urethane and tung oil, phenolic resin soya alkyd	mineral spirits	fast to moderate	\$20-35	Medium to high gloss. Easy to apply. Difficult to repair. Highly resistant to water, detergents, and many chemicals. Must sand old finish before recoating. Good for high-traffic areas.	4.3	3.6	5	4.7	5	4.6	4.5
SHELLAC	shellac, may be modified with other resins	denatured alcohol	fast	\$12-20	Medium to high gloss. Moderately easy to apply. Easy to repair and refinish. Alcohol and water can damage finish. Best for low traffic.	2.1	3.5	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.5
LACQUER	nitro-cellulose	lacquer thinner	fast	\$25-35	Medium to high gloss. Moderately easy to apply. Easy to repair and refinish. Clearest of all floor finishes. Best in low traffic areas.	1	2.8	5	5	5	4.8	3.9
SWEDISH FINISH	alkyd urea formaldehyde, polyvinyl resin	denatured alcohol	slow to fast	\$35-75	Medium gloss. Two-part finish difficult to apply — not recommended for DIY. Durability of polyurethane with natural appearance.	2.4	3.8	5	4.3	5	4.4	4.2
EPOXY FINISH	epoxy ester	mineral spirits	moderate	\$30-35	High gloss. Moderately easy to apply. Excellent wear properties exceed requirements for home use.	2.6	2.4	5	4.8	5	4.6	4.1
MOISTURE-CURED URETHANE	urethane	mineral spirits	moderate	\$30-40	Medium gloss. Difficult to apply — not recommended for DIY. Cures by absorbing moisture from the air.	1.8	3.2	5	4.6	5	4.8	4.1
WATER-BASED POLYURETHANE /ACRYLIC	urethane and/or acrylic resins	water	fast	\$30-65	Medium to high gloss. Some brands easy to apply — some not recommended for DIY. Water as solvent. Must mix two-part finish.	3.3	2.9	5	4.5	5	4.8	4.3
UNFINISHED RED OAK (control)						2.9	2.6	4.5	1	5	1	2.8

*Meldos Hard Sealer cost \$38.40 per gallon.

Ratings based on visual evaluation by a panel of judges. *Based on average of individual tests.