

Peter Kinch

Trade & DIY
Welcome

Plant & Tool Hire

Open Monday to Friday 07:30-17:00

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To bring your wooden floor back to its beautiful best, you will need to hire an electric floor sander. In addition we would also recommend hiring our floor edging sander which goes right up to the skirting board, so you won't have to get down on your hands and knees with sandpaper to finish the job. You should also get a special brush for applying the varnish - with synthetic fibres (a bit more expensive but more effective) - sandpaper (provided with the sander on sale or return), a mop and bucket, varnish, a floor pad and hammer.

Method



1. Close the door so the dust doesn't travel, open the windows, and put on a dust mask and safety goggles (also available from us). Inspect the bare floor (we'll take it for granted you've removed all furniture and rugs/ carpets) - it's important you hammer down any nails that might be sticking out, so that the sander doesn't get caught on one.

2. Also, fill in any gaps in the floorboards. For large gaps or holes, use a thin strip of wood covered in glue and stick it in the gap; for smaller gaps use papier mache. To make the mache, mix a stiff paste with torn strips of newspaper and wallpaper adhesive. Add some water-based wood dye to match the sanded floor. Force it into the gaps, smooth off and let it dry.

3. Now start by sanding the floor with the large floor sander using coarse sandpaper. Our staff will talk you through changing the sandpaper to avoid any errors. Start at one end of the room, leaving about two-thirds of the floor exposed in front. Start the sander - the drum needs to be off the floor - then walk forward and gently ease the drum to the floor. As you reach the end of the strip, cautiously begin to raise the drum off the floor. Once you have sanded as much of the room as possible with the floor sander you will need to move onto using the smaller edge sander.

With the hand-held floor sander, again load the sandpaper so it's tight. Sand with the grain, moving the sander slowly from side to

side. As you get to the end of the strip, turn by sanding in a semicircle direction. Note: Remember to unplug the sander whenever you need to change the sandpaper!

4. After sanding, once the dust has settled, vacuum everywhere, then wipe the floor with white spirit and leave to dry completely. Apply varnish to seal the wood; you can do this using a floor pad. Varnish floor pads come in a plastic container with the varnish. Dip the pad into the container to load it and start at the corner of the room that is furthest from the door. It's important to move the floor pad in the direction of the wood grain. For consistency, as you get to the other side of the room, turn the pad around and apply the varnish from the other end. Apply two to three coats leaving about two hours drying time in between.

5. When you've finished varnishing, clean the brushes thoroughly with warm water and washing-up liquid.

Expert tip:

For a really nice finish, in between the coats, go over the floor with a light sandpaper. Then mop the floor and wipe it with a little bit of paint thinner on a cloth to pick up all the dust, then varnish again. It's best to do three coats of varnish, wiping the floor in between. The more you do that the more likely you will get a good finish and a harder, durable floor.