

AS SEEN ON

AS HEARD ON
radio



With three coats of tung oil finish, this old cypress pine floor has returned to its rich honey colours and looks as good as new.



floored BY timber

Whether you have an old premium hardwood floor or a run-of-the-mill pine floor, you can sand and polish it yourself for half the cost of paying a professional

Even in the age of the concrete slab, timber floors are increasingly popular, and are now approaching 20 per cent of the Australian flooring market. And it's easy to see why. They are pleasant underfoot, durable and quick to clean – you can simply sweep up any dust and pet hair. Timber floors also benefit from a damn good polish.

The sands of time

When you decide to polish or repolish an old floor, an essential part of the process is to sand the floor first. However, if the floor is still in good condition, you may be able to just buff it before re-coating. Sanding is done with special floor and edge sanders that can be hired. These

machines are powerful, so if you're concerned about handling them yourself, have a professional do the job for you. They charge upwards of \$30 per square metre, with a starting cost of about \$800 including sanding and (usually) three coats of finish. By doing it yourself it will cost you about half that amount.

This old floor has been coated with a combined stain/varnish – never a great idea on a floor, as scratches and blemishes show up very prominently, especially in high-traffic areas. A floor that has been stained before, however, may require considerable sanding due to variable penetration of stain into timber. But you can only do it so many times. After three sanding and polishing episodes, floorboards become a little thin. Read on to find out how easy it is to bring your old floor up to scratch. ►