

Keeps the light colour of wood floors

Good wear & tear resistance

Odourless

One-component Ready to use

Easy application, very forgiveable

Very high build

Slip resistant

Suitable on all wood species

Recommendations: 3 coats on sound bare wood floors or 2 coats over 1 coat of primer

Athen®

Floor Varnish



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

- **Blanchon Athen®** is a PU water-based and odourless wood floor varnish. Its technical performance and formulation meet the most stringent ecological criteria.
- **Athen®** is easy and fast to use: its ready-to-use formula does not require any mixing with a hardener before use. It dries quickly (ready to be sanded and recoated in around 2-3 hours) and its curing time is fast allowing a rapid return to use of the premises after having finished the floor.
- Its high-build resins give a perfect finish (using 3 coats or 2 coats on a Blanchon Primer).
- **Blanchon Athen®** is ideal for all interior wood floors properly prepared (cf. Surface Preparation §): living rooms, bedrooms, lounges, stairs, etc. It can be applied on all species commonly used in flooring (please consult us for beech, walnut and rare species) and it highlights very nicely light-coloured wood floors while preserving their original (i.e. unfinished) colour.
- **Blanchon Athen®** is available in 3 finishes: Clear gloss, Clear satin, Clear matt. Interior use (not suitable for exterior applications).

SURFACE PREPARATION

- Sand down new or existing wood floors to obtain a smooth, even surface: the wood should first be sanded down to bare wood (using strippers or dewaxing agents is not advised).
- Make sure the floor is free of any traces of wax, detergents, polish or linseed oils (or other specific oils).
- Vacuum the floor thoroughly after sanding.
- The wood floor must be perfectly dry and sound: in general, wood moisture content below 10% (avoid using detergents, bleach or cleaning products).
- Then **Athen®** can be applied.
- For glued down wood flooring, it is recommended to use Blanchon Pro Filler (water-based filler) or Blanchon Resin Filler for any colour-matching fillings (consult Technical Data Sheets of these products for more details).

Insecticide treatment

- Only treatment products recommended by Blanchon may be used (Trait'Plus® MU).

Staining

- Sanded floors (back to bare wood) can be stained with Blanchon Waterborne Dye (wood colours, colours, pastel colours) or Blanchon Wood Ageing Agent (to create an aged look).
Note: after using Wood Ageing Agent, the colour should be fixed by applying Blanchon SO Primer on top.
- Tip: in all cases, do not sand the stain. A light sanding is only recommended before applying the final coat of **Athen®** after the previous ones are fully dry.
- Vacuum the floor thoroughly before applying the final coat of **Athen®**.
- Woodstains should not be used.

Use of primers

- One coat of Blanchon primers can be used as a first base coat, then 2 coats of **Athen®** can be applied on top. The quick-drying time of primers speeds up the finishing process.
- The water-based primer allows a fast completion of the varnishing work with an easy application and no fumes (all products will be water-based).
- Water-based primers and **Athen®** keep the natural colour of unfinished wood.
- In all cases, the wood floor must be perfectly dry and clean. Vacuum carefully before applying any finishing product.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Ready to use: single component

- **Athen®** is ready to use. No mixing required.
- Stir thoroughly before use.
- Do not apply **Athen®** onto wooden floors where the room temperature at ground level is below 12°C and the air moisture content is higher than 85%. Never apply onto wood with moisture content above 10%. Only use in well-ventilated areas. Never leave plants and fish tanks in the areas where the product is being applied.
- Application should be carried out evenly with a roller (short pile roller for wood floor lacquers) in generous coats. The product can also be applied with a spatula (multi-layered application).
NB: The slightly "milky" appearance of the liquid wood floor varnish disappears within a few minutes, as it dries.
- 2 coats of **Athen®** (applied "generously": 8 to 10 sqm/l) offer good results on hard woods, under normal use, but 3 coats are always needed on soft, porous or absorbent wood (4 or more on certain species of beech or coniferous).
- After the first coat has dried, it is recommended to carry out a light sanding with a single brush (abrasive fine grid) and vacuum the dust.
- A light sanding is essential if the waiting time between 2 coats exceeds 24 hours.

Blanchon

Cleaning of tools

- Clean tools with water immediately after use. Do not re-use the packaging.
- Protecting the environment:
 - Carefully remove all traces of liquid from your equipment following the application of the lacquer.
 - Rinse with very little water in a bucket: allow this water to evaporate.
 - The dry residue can then be thrown away normally in the refuse bin.
 - Make sure you reseal the pack carefully after use.
 - Take the empty container to the refuse site.
 - Do not pour any residue down the drain.

DRYING TIMES

- Touch dry: 45 minutes.
- Drying time between coats: 3 hours under normal conditions.
- Never leave more than 24 hours between coats (cf. USE AND APPLICATION §, bullet point 8).
- Fully cured: 8 to 10 days.
- Light traffic: 24 hours.
- Return to full use: during the first 10 days, some simple precautions should be taken: do not cover (with protective sheets) and do not lay carpets on the varnished wooden floor. Do not move heavy furniture. Dust with a vacuum cleaner or a broom (do not use impregnated textiles).
- Thereafter: place appropriate protections (felt guards) under the feet of tables and chairs. If necessary, a quality mat placed at the entrance to the room will retain dust and grit. Do not allow water or other liquids to stagnate on your varnished floor (although put sill trays under flower pots).

COVERAGE

- Around 8 to 10 sqm per litre per coat.

STORAGE

- Protect from frost (be careful if stored in vehicles).
- Properly seal container after use.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

- **Athen®** facilitates the maintenance of all types of wooden floors.
- **EVERYDAY MAINTENANCE:** remove dust regularly with a vacuum cleaner or brush. If necessary, wet sweeping (Lagoon® Blanchon, material well drained and never dripping). Lagoon® cleans, maintains and protects varnished wood floors. Its regular use gives them character and fouling which limits the black marks and traces embedded on the surface appearance of the floor varnish.
- Important: allow 10 days before carrying out any cleaning or maintenance, to give **Athen®** time to cure properly.
- Areas subjected to heavy traffic should be appropriately maintained with Blanchon Protector, Blanchon Daily Cleaner, Blanchon Métamat® or Blanchon Maintenance.
- **DO NOT USE:** buffing machines, mops, silicone polishes, products containing ammonia or abrasive detergents, etc, i.e. anything that might leave the wood slippery and shiny.
- Use only Blanchon Métamat® or Blanchon Maintenance on **Athen®** Matt in order to keep its original look.

RESTORATION

- **Athen®** can be restored. In this case, it is necessary to carefully sand the floor (buffing machine fitted with an abrasive mesh); remove all dust. Then apply 1 to 2 coats of **Athen®**.
- Any restoration using **Athen®** over existing old or unknown lacquer should not be carried out before the wood has been sanded back to bare wood (cf. § PREPARATION and APPENDIX*).

TECHNICAL DATA

PURPOSE	FLOOR VARNISH
RESIN TYPE	water-based polyurethanes
AFNOR CLASSIFICATION	Family 1, class 7b2
DENSITY	1.05 (at 20°C, as per NF T 30020)
VISCOSITY	140 centipoises (BROOKFIELD T3)
STATUTORY INFORMATION	Please refer to the corresponding material safety data sheet (available at www.blanchon.co.uk or www.quickfds.com)
NO MIXING	Ready to use
RE-SANDABLE / RE-COATABLE	3 hours according to the temperature and the hygrometric state
RESISTANCE TO TABER ABRASION	Loss in weight : 45 mg (CS 10 grinding wheels, 1000 revs, 1 kg)
RESISTANCE TO SHOCK	50 cm (400 gm chuck) (as per NF T 30039)
RESISTANCE TO SCRATCHING	7H Pencil
RESISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	Vegetable oil, mustard, ketchup, vinegar, water, coffee, tea, common household detergents, alcohol 40°, ink, diluted bleach: RAS (after 20 days of drying, according to NF T 30053). Outlawing products with ammonia

*APPENDIX: SANDING A PARQUET FLOOR USING A MACHINE

- This is done using a special floor sander, with an edge sander for the edges and a scraper for the corners.
- The floor sander should be used in the direction of the light, or better still, in the direction of the wood, if possible.
- Carry it out in even, regular "sweeps" so as to ensure that the entire surface is done in an identical manner.
- 1st pass: coarse grain (24, 30 or 36) in order to strip the wood bare and smooth it down.
- 2nd pass: medium grain (50 or 60) to even out the surface.
- 3rd pass: fine grain (100 or 120) to give it a perfect finish.
- Do all the edges of the room (edge sander and scraper).
- Polishing with a buffing machine fitted with an abrasive mesh (80 or 120) ensures that the surface is perfectly prepared, especially in the case of flooring that has alternating lines (mosaics, chevrons, herringbone pattern, Hungarian point pattern, etc.).
- Remove all dust carefully, using a powerful vacuum cleaner (the area to be lacquered, as well as any plinths, window ledges and radiators).

Technical sheet distributed by the Documentation Department on 20.03.2009, approved by the Technical Department on 20.03.2009 and the sales department on 20.03.2009.

Designed, developed and manufactured in France.

The information supplied in this technical sheet is provided in good faith, for information purposes only.

Under no circumstances may it be interpreted as a guarantee from us, nor may we be considered liable for it during the use of our products.

This technical sheet cancels or replaces all previous versions.

28, rue Charles Martin - BP 105
69192 SAINT-FONS CEDEX - FRANCE
Tél. 04 72 89 06 00 - Fax 04 78 70 07 18
Export Lines: Tel. (0033) 472 89 06 09
Fax (0033) 472 89 06 02



BLANCHON S.A. - Est. 1832 - A stock company with a board of directors and a supervisory board, with a registered capital of € 4 258 258
390 112 886 RCS LYON - APE 2030 Z - E-mail: info.uk@blanchon.com - Internet: www.blanchon.co.uk