



Chesapeake Tartan 30 Association

CLEANING THE CABIN CORK SOLE

Via Email, May 1996

Q: Does anyone have a good suggestion as to how to clean the cork sole in the cabin? We are in the process of varnishing the interior and would like to clean the sole that has 20+ years of traffic. Mike Dahill, *Undine*, #97

A: Never put water on a cork floor to clean it. For years, we've used a combination cleaner/wax called Wood Preen (by The Kiwi Polish Company), which is labeled for "wood floors, cabinets, paneling & *cork floors*" (emphasis supplied). Sweep the floor first, then spread on the Wood Preen. Let soak 3 minutes, to loosen old wax & dirt. Wipe up the Wood Preen before it dries, turning the cloth frequently as it fills up with dirt & old wax. Leave a thin coat. When dry (15-30 min.) you *may* buff it to a gloss if desired, but we never do; we'd rather leave a thicker wax coat on. This wax is not slippery underfoot.

Opinion: Some have wondered about Tartan's rather unusual choice of flooring for the T-30. Several decades ago, cork floors were considered very luxurious & practical. Besides good appearance, they were quiet underfoot and not slippery like linoleum or vinyl flooring. Cork floors were frequently used in banks & libraries as well as upscale homes. But care of cork floors was relatively labor-intensive. Time passed, other floor coverings improved, and cork floors fell out of favor. Hence, finding cleaner/wax to take care of them may be more difficult now. Wood Preen is more likely to be found in a good hardware store rather than a grocery. But whatever you decide to use, it should be clearly marked as suitable for cleaning & waxing *cork* floors. Jean Armendt, *Emprise*, #282

After the post about cleaning cork soles, I went out to the local hardware store and found they had some Wood Preen. Got some, and went to work over the weekend. Wow, did it work! Cleaned the cork and gave it a nice looking sheen. Thanks for the lead! Carl Dow, *Nauta*, #82

... we got a chance to try Jean's recommendation on the cabin sole and the results are terrific. Thanks for the help. Mike Dahill, *Undine*, #97

