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Sanding & Polishing a Timber Floor – the Standard Way Vs the Perfect Process by [Styris](#)

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First of all I would like to start by explaining what is considered The Standard Method of Sanding a Timber Floor. I'll try to keep it brief. First all nails need to be punched if any.

The Standard Way is to go over the floor with two or three cuts. A course paper, a Medium paper and finally a Fine paper. Then most professionals will try to buff out the chatter marks and any sanding marks that remain, often called railway lines.

The problem with this Standard method is that you are constantly doing the same sanding to the floor, in the same area, with the same machine and the same cutting action.

Imagine you have a one inch thick letter 'S' and you want to turn that into a letter 'L'. You don't just carve off an even amount following the 'S'. All you do is have a skinnier 'S' you'll never have an 'L'. So my point is, by constantly maintaining the same cutting action with the same machine you are only following the waves of the floor like the 'S'.

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After The Medium Cut with the belt sander, we change to a three disc, planetary motion cutting sander called the Trio.

This has a much wider span and is multidirectional. Firstly it spans the high spots bringing them down. So that when you return to the drum sander, the floor is much flatter. That original machine is now on a very different shaped floor than before. It's not on the 'S' now, it's on the 'L'. But for this, the planetary motion has removed all or the Course and medium sanding marks. The floor appears finished. So when you run the final fine sand over the floor, all that the fine paper has to do is smooth it off. It doesn't have to cut in and try and remove sanding marks as they are already gone.

Then we return to the trio for a Fine Paper. But it doesn't stop there. When then change the cutting action again to a Square buff Oscillating action for a Swirl free finish.

Standard Way: Belt, Belt, Belt Circular Buff. (Too many Swirls) Same action = not flat.

Perfect Process: Belt, Belt, Trio, Belt, Trio, Oscillating. (Alternating action = 20% Flatter floor)

Technology has come a long way and people standards and expectations are higher than ever. A cheap price for the Standard way just won't cut it today. Your floors can be done so much better.

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