



Our Thoughts On Using DooDoo Voodoo On Hardwood Floors, Plus Some Thoughts On Related Drywall Issues

We received a question about using DooDoo Voodoo on a hardwood floor that had cat spray on it that had been there for some time, as well as on the adjacent drywall. Here's my reply e-mail to the customer who posed the questions.

Others have been in the same boat you are and have reported excellent success with DooDoo Voodoo. For both old or new feline spraying, DooDoo Voodoo works wonders IF it gets into complete contact with the urine and is allowed sufficient "dwell time" to re-liquify the old urine and then fully do its job. If DooDoo Voodoo is applied insufficiently or forced to dry too quickly, it won't have as much effectiveness.

If your wooden floor is intact and has a polyurethane coating over it, you're in good shape, as the polyurethane keeps liquids from soaking into the wood. Cleaning on polyurethaned floors is very easy. But, given that you asked the question you did, I assume that your floor either has polyurethane that is damaged/missing and has allowed urine to soak into the wood or that your floor is of the type that never had polyurethane applied as a sealer, whether after it was stained or if it was never treated with wood stain.

If your situation is the latter and urine has gotten into the bare wood, yes, DooDoo Voodoo will be very helpful to you. After treatment and *complete* drying, a new coat of polyurethane or oil can be applied to help seal residual odors in, should there be any, and to help keep new soiling from getting to the wood.

If urine has soaked down into the cracks between boards, apply DooDoo Voodoo liberally there, perhaps with a syringe if you have one available, and leave it to air dry naturally.

The drywall is more of a concern, given its porous nature, particularly down low behind the baseboard, assuming baseboard exists. What DooDoo Voodoo touches, it can eradicate, so you need to make sure that it gets to all the places where the urine crept. The concern is, though, that the urine may have caused the drywall to delaminate and/or disintegrate, in which case you're better off replacing at least the offending sections of drywall. To a drywall installer, this is not a big deal... and by removing the offending sections, it may allow you to gain access to the area behind the baseboard, which is key because urine often soaks into the wall's bottom plate (the 2x4 running horizontally along the floor and into which your studs are nailed).

Barring cutting out the drywall, and assuming that it's in decent enough shape to salvage, you can treat the drywall with sprayed DooDoo Voodoo, then coat it with KILZ (be sure to choose the right KILZ, as not all of them are appropriate for sealing in odor) or BIN primer/sealer to seal in any residual odors, then apply a finish coat or two of paint. The type of paint I've been using lately is the Valspar Reserve from Lowes, which uses molecular crosslinking to keep mold from growing and which does a good job of sealing in what's under it. (I have used both the interior and exterior versions and really, really like this paint.) Consumer Reports also recommends Behr Premium Plus, which is available at the Home Depot and is not even Behr's most expensive product, but which Consumer Reports rated a Best Buy. I'm not aware of this product's technical aspects like I am the Lowes Valspar product, though, so inquire at the Home Depot.

Urine that's soaked into and below the bottom plate of a wall is a common cause of residual odor, as people often don't introduce DooDoo Voodoo to this area (at all or sufficiently), so DooDoo Voodoo can't completely do its job. So, you'll want to caulk the junctures between the baseboard and the drywall and between the baseboard and the floor, thus helping keep any residual odor from emanating out around the baseboard. If you cut out your drywall and have access to the lower parts of your studs and your bottom plate, you should seize the opportunity and coat them with the appropriate KILZ or BIN product after treating them with DooDoo Voodoo.

When dealing with old urine, you need to apply enough DooDoo Voodoo to fully re-liquify the solidified urine crystals. While the old urine is in the liquid state and after sufficient dwell time is allowed for DooDoo Voodoo to do its magic, this is a good time to suck up what you can by using a carpet extractor or wetvac (such as a ShopVac or other brands; make sure you use the proper setup and don't accidentally use the vac in "dry pickup" mode). After extracting, you might want to re-treat the area with a second round of DooDoo Voodoo. This is the method I've used and which has been successful for me.

Be sure to spray DooDoo Voodoo further up the walls in case animals sprayed while standing on furniture.

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