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Floor blimey!

Many homeowners know the joy of pulling back the carpets to discover a terracotta or flagstone floor. Then, quickly the joy turns to horror, when it becomes clear just how damaged the floor will look.

A quick cover-up is not the only answer. There are specialists who are working hard to restore these floors and worktops to their former glory.

One of the experts involved in this specialist work is Tim Stamp, who set up Stone Care Services four years ago.

"I had been actively involved in the refurbishment and maintenance of all types of natural stone for many years and saw a real niche in the market," said Tim, whose latest project is to restore a terracotta floor at a home in the Midlands to its former glory.

"It is a case of yet another homeowner lifting a carpet and finding a stone floor but then not knowing what to do next. It needs work on it but there is always the worry this will be too expensive.

"That's where we come in. We can offer advice and show people how floors made of anything from marble to granite can be restored. It might be a matt finish they want or prefer one with a

lustre - that is up to them." Tim believes his work will often come to no more than other measures, like a new carpet or even the cost of replacing all the tiles.

"We have a wide range of people who seek our advice. Victorian homes often need work but there is a wide range of floors that will benefit."

Sometimes the floors can be restored to their former glory - the process includes the careful grinding of the floors, little by little to remove the damaged top layers.

Tim, who is based in Surrey said: "The art of keeping a floor looking clean and hygienic as well as in good repair is a specialised one. We use specialised machinery and advanced chemical processes to bring the stone surface back to its near original state without costly replacement bills." □

■ To find out more contact Stone Care Services on 01483 289 181 or visit the new website at www.stonecare-services.com.

FORMER GLORY

A LIFELINE has been thrown to furniture that has seen better days. Another specialist helping to restore anything from a damaged table to a scratched sideboard is finding growing demand for his work. The Furniture Medic in the Stourbridge area is run by James Creed who is making home visits to offer care and restoration. Environmentally friendly water-based products are used to give furniture a fresh, new finish. Scratches, dents, watermarks, broken joints and other damage can all be undone under the care of the Furniture Medic.

James said: "Unless furniture is kept under lock and key in an airtight vault, wear and tear is impossible to avoid. We are able to offer convenience by repairing damaged furniture in the customer's home or place of business while also saving them money."

For more information call the Furniture Medic on 01746 780110 or visit the website at www.furnituremedic.co.uk