

Hardwood Flooring Guide to Care & Maintenance



Hardwood floors provide superior wear with proper care and maintenance. Protect the natural beauty of your hardwood flooring with a few simple steps to keep them looking like new.

For cleaning, make sure you...

- > Use a damp cloth to blot spills and spots as soon as they happen. For tough spots, such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, tar, or cigarette marks, use acetone/nail polish remover on a clean white cloth, then wipe with a damp cloth. Always avoid allowing liquids to stand on your floor.
- > Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent damaging the finish.
- > Occasionally wipe the floor with a damp mop or cloth.
- > Periodically clean the floor with a quality floor care product.



While cleaning is easy, there are a few things to avoid:

- > Don't use oil based, wax, polish, ammoniated or abrasive cleaners.
- > Don't use steel wool, scouring powder or buffing machines.
- > Don't wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soap detergent, or any other liquid cleaning material.

Other routine care instructions:

- > For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.

Use protective mats

- > Good quality entry and exit mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that can otherwise be tracked onto your flooring.
- > Do not use rubber- or foam-backed plastic mats as they may discolor the flooring.
- > To prevent slippage, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.

Use floor protectors on furniture

- > Use floor protectors and wide-load-bearing leg bases/rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects.
- > As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector should be.

Maintain relative humidity level

- > Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 45% and 65% throughout the year to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of wood.
- > Heating Season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
- > Non Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier or periodically turning on your heating system can maintain humidity during the summer months.
- > Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.

Watch your feet - and your pet's

- > Don't walk on your flooring with stiletto-style heels, spiked golf shoes, or cleats; they may cause indentations in your flooring.
- > Keep your pet's nails trimmed to keep them from scratching your flooring.

Rearrange your rugs and furniture

- > Periodically rearranging your area rugs and furniture will allow the flooring to age evenly. UV sunlight will soften the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees.

Protect the floor when moving

- > Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture or appliances, but first, put down a sheet of quarter-inch plywood or Masonite to protect the floor.
- > Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.

For repairing your hardwood flooring

- > Just give us a call! **310-882-6269**