

Hardwood Floor Care and Maintenance

Few floor coverings are as spectacular as a new hardwood floor. However, like any floor covering, it will eventually show signs of wear. The amount of wear, of course, will be proportional to the amount of traffic it receives. But don't worry; you won't have to replace that floor anytime soon. By simply taking a few preventive measures and maintaining a regular cleaning routine, the rate of wear can be significantly reduced.

Ways to help preserve your floor's newly-installed appearance:-

- Place breathable, dirt-catching mats at all room entrances
Note: do not use mats with rubber or other non-porous backings
- Use felt pads under furniture legs
- Casters on furniture should be at least 1" wide, in good working condition, and kept clean of debris
- Area rugs should be placed in high traffic areas, at stair landings and in front of sinks
Note: as with entrance mats, do not use area rugs with non-porous backings
- When moving furniture, lift it rather than dragging or pushing it
- When moving exceptionally heavy furniture or appliances, make sure the floor is clean then cover it with a firm material, like plywood, and use a dolly to move the heavy item.
- Do not walk on the floor with spike high heels, athletic cleats, taps, or any shoes with damaged heels
- Keep pet's claws trimmed

Another preventive measure you should if you install a solid wood floor is to maintain your place humidity level between 35% and 55%. Depending on where you live, you may need to use a humidifier, dehumidifier, air conditioner, heater, or a combination these devices to get the desired result. For engineered wood flooring, this preventive measure is usually not required.

Cleaning a hardwood floor begins as it does with other smooth floor surfaces, but after that there are some important differences to be aware of. The following steps are provided as general guidelines.

Dos:

- Sweep or vacuum the floor regularly and whenever needed
Note: if a vacuum cleaner is used, it must have a soft brush or felt head, and the wheels should be clean to prevent scratches
- Only use a dry mop

- Water is usually sufficient to clean up the floor. Conventional flooring detergent is actually not recommended on pre-finished floors as they might damage the coating of the floor.
- Hard stains can often be removed by rubbing a recommended cleaning agent on it.
- Clean up spills and tracked-in dirt immediately with a soft cloth

Don'ts:

- Do not use a vacuum cleaner with a beater bar head
- Do not wet mop the floor with water
- Do not use oil soap, wax-based products, or household cleaners containing lemon oil, tung oil, or ammonia

Damage caused by non-approved products is not covered by warranty. This will not only protect your investment, but preserve the beauty of your hardwood floor for many years.