



Floor Care Guidelines

Hardwood floors are among the easiest to keep clean and with proper care their beauty will endure for decades. The tips below are intended to help you care for and prevent damage to your hardwood floor.

- Don't Damp Mop—Water and wood floors don't mix!. Use only the manufacturer's recommended cleaning products, such as Bona Kemi hardsurface cleaner on your hardwood. Wood floors require a relative humidity similar to your personal comfort levels to limit cracking and swelling over time. Limiting excessive heat and moisture will ensure that your floors perform as they should.
- Dust Mop—Use a good dust mop—one with a 12 to 18 inch cotton head—and a special dust mop treatment. Spray the treatment onto the mop head, not the floor.
- Sweep—Brooms with fine, exploded ends trap dust and grit effectively.
- Vacuum Regularly—Small stones, mud and gritty dirt tracked in from outside can damage a wood floor's finish. To help combat this, use long bristle welcome mats placed at all outside entrances for people to wipe their feet before stepping on the wood floor. Also, when vacuuming use a bristle brush attachment. Don't use vacuums with beater bars. Canister vacuums with special bare floor attachments are the best way to get rid of dirt and dust.
- Use the Proper Chair Glides—Narrow wheels, sharp wooden legs and metal furniture legs can scratch and dent hardwood floors. Any furniture that rests directly on top of a hardwood floor should have felt protectors under all it's feet.
- Don't Use Oil Soaps—There are many over the counter oil-based soaps and wax-based cleaning products that may damage or dull the finish of your wood floor. The best suggestion is to only use the manufacturer's recommended cleaning products on your hardwood flooring.
- Wipe Spills Immediately—When accidents happen and liquid is spilled on your hardwood floor, you should use a paper towel to immediately clean up and dry the affected area.
- Furniture—Lift the furniture to move it, avoid dragging. The legs of furniture should have felt on the bases to prevent scratching as the furniture moves with use. Take caution when moving heavy objects across hardwood floors; it is preferable not to drag things on the wood, but if one must then lay down a blanket or other item that will slide easily for the item to rest on.
- Shoe Marks—The biggest cause of floor damage is what is on one's feet; make sure your shoes are not exceedingly dirty, be cautious of walking in high heels or cleats across hardwood, and black rubber soles can leave marks which will require friction to remove.
- Pets—The previous statement also applies to your household pets! Keep your pets' nails trimmed so they do not scratch up the hardwood, and your pets' dishes should sit on a nonslip rubber mat to keep the food and water off the floor.
- Sunlight—Wood is a natural product that is affected by light. Both artificial and natural light can change the color of your hardwood floors over time. Window coverings can help prevent or retard this color change
- Further Information – Please visit the NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) website at woodfloors.org.