

Cleaning and Maintenance

Keeping your hardwood floors looking beautiful is easier than you think. Today's hardwood floors can be cared for with minimal effort, and in most cases, a little preventative maintenance will keep your floors looking beautiful for years to come!

No matter what kind of floor you have, or which type of finish is used, all hardwood floors should be cleaned regularly. Simply sweep, dust mop or vacuum the floor (with the beater bar turned off) to remove dirt and grit. Avoid wet mopping your hardwood floors as this can dull the finish, or even damage the wood.

Place scatter rugs and runners at all entrances and high traffic areas once the finish has cured. Avoid rugs with a rubber backing, as these can discolor your floor. These rugs will help keep dirt and debris from scratching your floors. Place floor protector pads on the bottoms of all furniture that comes into direct contact with your floor.

Be sure to clean spills immediately with a dry or slightly damp cloth. Allowing spills to remain on your floor could damage the finish, as well as the wood.

You should also avoid walking on your floors with cleats, or high heels in disrepair. These can scratch the finish, or even cause dents in the floor.

Beyond these general guidelines, it is important to know which type of finish has been applied to your floor. Different wood flooring finishes may require different care, and it is important to use the right product to protect your floors and prolong their life.



Wood Floors



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Surface Finishes

Surface finishes are very popular because they are durable, water-resistant and require minimal maintenance. Surface finishes are blends of synthetic resins. These finishes most often are referred to as urethanes or polyurethanes, and remain on the surface of the wood to form a protective wear layer. Surface finishes are available in gloss, satin, and matte finishes.

Cleaning

For surface finishes, you should use the manufacturer's recommended cleaning products. If the manufacturer is not known, use a generic hardwood floor cleaner, which is available at your local retail flooring store. You should never use wax-based products on a surface finish floor as it will damage the finish. Petroleum-based cleaners should be avoided on water-based finishes as well.

Spills

Wipe up spills immediately. Use a slightly dampened cloth and follow with the manufacturer's or a generic hardwood cleaning product.

Stains

For stubborn stains, lightly dampen a cloth with the manufacturer's or a generic hardwood cleaning product, and gently rub the stain. Repeat until the stain is removed.

Damaged Finishes

When the floor begins to lose its luster, you should contact a professional to refinish your floor and restore it to its original beauty.

Oiled Finishes

Oiled finishes have a very different appearance than Surface Finishes. Over time, as applications of oil and maintenance occur the floors will begin to look better and develop a rich patina. When properly maintained, an oiled floor will look great for a lifetime.

Cleaning

Natural Soap is designed to clean and protect oil finished floors from dirt, stains, and wear and tear. It cleans and leaves behind an invisible layer of soy and coconut fats, which greatly help to ward off most anything. When used regularly, these soaps increasingly make your floor more dirt and wear resistant and easier to clean.

DO NOT use microfiber as this will wear down most finishes.

Refresher Oil

Refresher oil is used for periodic cleaning and maintenance of oiled floor (1-4 times per year). These products combine efficient cleaning with oil rejuvenation, as additional oil penetrates the wood and forms a protective layer in the surface.