



This advice leaflet includes general information on caring for a wooden floor and specific recommendations for hardwood and laminate floors.

Maintenance and Care Guide for Hardwood and Laminate Floors

All hardwood and laminate floors regardless of what type of finish must be maintained properly to keep the beauty long lasting. Below are the basic recommendations to care for your floor. It is always recommended that you follow the flooring manufactures guide which comes with the floor.

- Sweep or vacuum the floor (with an appropriate brush or bare floor vacuum attachment) regularly to keep it clean and free of dirt, oil, dust, grit, and other abrasive materials.
- Place area rugs or doormats at entryways or areas of heavy foot traffic to help prevent materials from being tracked onto the floor from outdoors. Avoid rubber backed or dense mats that may trap moisture between the mat and the floor. Choose mats that enable airflow and do not discolour the floor.
- Protect the floor from any exposure to liquids, water or other forms of moisture.
- Use a clean damp (not wet) cloth to wipe up spilled food, drink or other liquid immediately.
- Never wet mop the floor when cleaning.
- Avoid walking on the floor with wet feet or footwear.
- Install felt pads or soft bottomed castors on the feet of all furniture that will be placed directly onto the floor surface.
- Do not walk on the floor with high heeled shoes or other types of footwear which may damage the finish or cause indentations to the surface.
- Do not drag/push furniture or any other objects across the floor.
- Never use any household or furniture dust remover, polish or similar products.
- Never use any steel wool, scouring pad or any other abrasive cleaners (unless a wax finished floor).
- Only use cleaning products recommended by the flooring manufacturer.
- The sun's rays can discolour the flooring; consider sheer blinds to reduce the UV rays.
- If you have a wax-finished floor you can rent a buffer to improve the appearance.
- If you have pets keep their nails trimmed to avoid scratching the floor surface.

Specific advice for different wood flooring types

Acrylic impregnated floors – If you have a urethane coated acrylic impregnated floor it will require regular sweeping, vacuuming or dust mopping as well as damp-mopping using a recommended cleaning agent. Non-urethane coated acrylic impregnated floors should receive the same treatment except you should not damp mop. In addition they should also be routinely buffed using a buffing machine and cleaner. Never use a wax on top of this surface, if it starts to lose its lustre it is ready to be re-coated.

Wax floors – Try to wipe up spills immediately always with a dry cloth. Never use a water-based cleaner on this type of flooring. If white spots occur due to water spills, use a fine steel wool and rub in a circular motion until it is removed, you will then need to re-wax and re-buff. If the floor loses its lustre, buff to a shine, if this no longer produces a satisfactory result then you may need to re-wax. Try to avoid too much wax as this can cause the floor to scuff easily.

Laminate floor – Follow the general care instructions. Regular floor cleaners, such as pine scented are not recommended for use on laminate flooring as they leave a dull residue behind. For quick spot cleaning window cleaner used with a soft cloth is ideal, however if you over use it will remove the protective sealant on the laminate floor. Never apply wax to this flooring as it will result in a dull build-up. This type of flooring is generally stain resistant, low maintenance and scratch resistant, however some more stubborn stains may require special attention:

- Blood – spray the stain with window cleaner and wipe with a damp cloth.
- Grease – apply an ice pack until the grease hardens and then gently scrape off; remove any residue with window cleaner and a damp cloth.
- Heel marks – rub away with a pencil eraser.
- Chewing gum – remove excess gum with a plastic knife and rub with a soft cloth dampened with mineral spirits.