

Use and Care of Hardwood Floors

The warmth and ambiance of wood floors add something special to any decor. However, wood floors are not impervious to normal wear, and we want you to know what to expect now that you made this choice for your home. Please review the following information and keep in mind that preventive maintenance is the primary goal in caring for hardwood floors.

Cleaning. Sweep on a daily basis or as needed. Never wet-mop a hardwood floor. Excessive water causes wood to expand, possibly damaging the floor. When polyurethane finishes become soiled, damp mop with a mixture of one cup vinegar to one gallon of warm water. When damp mopping, remove all excess water from the mop.

Dimples. Heavy furniture or dropping heavy or sharp objects can cause dimples.

Filmy Appearance. A white, filmy appearance results from moisture, often from wet shoes or boots.

Furniture Legs. Install proper floor protectors on furniture used on hardwood floors. Protectors will allow chairs to move easily over the floor with less scuffing. Clean the protectors on a regular basis to remove any grit that may accumulate.

Humidity. Wood floors respond noticeably to changes in humidity in your home, especially during winter months when the heat is on. A humidifier helps but does not eliminate this reaction.

Mats and Area Rugs. Use protective mats at the exterior doors to help prevent sand and grit from getting on the floor. These substances are wood flooring's worst enemy. However, be aware that rubber backing on area rugs or mats can cause yellowing and warping of the floor surface.

Separation (see also, Warping). Expect some shrinkage around heat vents or any heat producing appliances.

Shoes. Keep high heels in good repair. Heels that have lost their protective cap (thus exposing the fastening nail) will mark your wood floor. They will exert thousands of pounds of pressure per square inch on the floor.

Spills. Clean up food spills immediately with a dry cloth. Use a vinegar and warm water solution for tough food spills.

Splinters. While floors are new, small splinters of wood can appear.

Traffic Paths. A dulling of the finish in heavy traffic areas is likely.

Warping. Warping will occur if the floor becomes wet repeatedly or is thoroughly soaked even one time. Slight warping in the area of heat vents or heat producing appliances is also typical.

Wax. Waxing and oil-based products are neither necessary nor recommended. Once you wax a polyurethane finish floor, recoating is difficult because the new finish will not bond to the wax. The preferred maintenance is preventive cleaning and recoating annually or as needed to maintain the desired level of luster.