



Hardwood Flooring Care and Maintenance

Do:

- Use **floor protectors** and wide-load-bearing leg bases or rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects. Use a dolly when moving heavy furniture and appliances.
- Use a soft cloth to blot spills and spots as soon as they happen. Always avoid allowing liquids to stand on your hardwood floor.
- Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly. If vacuuming, use a hard floor attachment to avoid scratching or dulling your floor's finish.
- Clean the floor using only a hard surfaces flooring cleaner, specially formulated to wipe away dirt and soil without damaging your floor's finish.
- Remove sticky substances, such as candle wax or chewing gum. Do this by applying ice to harden the substance and then gently scraping with a plastic scraper. Tip: A credit card makes a good substitute. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
- Use entry mats, which will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that can be tracked onto your hardwood flooring. To prevent slipping, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment. (*Tip: Don't use rubber or foam-backed plastic mats, as they may discolor the flooring.*)
- Rearrange your rugs and furniture periodically to allow the flooring to age evenly.
- Remove shoes with spiked or damaged heels before walking on your hardwood floor; they can leave scratches or indentations in hardwood.
- Keep your pets' nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.

Don't:

- Use oil-based, wax, polish or strong ammoniated products, which can dull your floor's finish.
- Use steel wool, scouring powders, or other abrasive cleaners, which can scratch or damage your floor's finish.
- Wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soap detergent, or any other liquid cleaning material. This could cause swelling, warping, delaminating, and joint-line separation, and void the warranty.
- Use any type of buffing machine.
- Allow prolonged exposure to sunlight, it can soften the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees and accelerate the oxidation and aging of wood.