



Hardwood Care & Maintenance

Your hardwood will last many years if maintained properly. The following will provide you with the knowledge to care for your floors.

Characteristics of Wood

- ❖ Hardwood is a natural product and therefore naturally has defects.
- ❖ Each piece of wood varies in grain and color consistent with its species.
- ❖ Wood is full of holes, like a sponge, and like a sponge absorbs moisture.
- ❖ One piece of wood may have more grain than another piece and more or less holes.
- ❖ Wood floors naturally absorb and release moisture due to changes in the seasons/humidity causing them to expand and contract. This may result in cracks between some of the pieces in your floor.
- ❖ Minor splints may be apparent on your new floor but will wear off with time. This is not a defect.

Weather & Humidity

- ❖ Wood floors are affected by varying levels of humidity caused by heating and cooling. Maintaining a normal indoor relative humidity level between 45 and 65% throughout the year will minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the wood.
- ❖ A humidifier is required during seasons when heating your home; this will minimize shrinkage due to low humidity levels.
- ❖ During seasons when not heating your home, proper humidity levels can be maintained by the use of an air conditioner, dehumidifier or by periodically turning on your heating system.
- ❖ Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.

Cleaning & Care

- ❖ Sweep, dust, or vacuum your floor regularly with the hard floor attachment, not the beater bar, to prevent accumulation of dirt or grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- ❖ Occasionally wipe the floor with a damp mop or cloth.
- ❖ Avoid allowing liquids to stand on your floor. Use a damp cloth to blot spills as soon as they happen.
- ❖ Periodically clean your floor with a professional hardwood floor care product.

Things to Avoid

- ❖ Never use an oil-based wax, polish, or strong ammonia or abrasive cleaners.
- ❖ Don't use steel wool or scouring powder.
- ❖ Don't wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soap detergent, or any other liquid cleaning material. This may cause swelling, warping, or joint-line separation and void your warranty.
- ❖ Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
- ❖ Sharp or pointed objects can damage your floors. Never walk on your floors with stiletto-style heels, spiked golf shoes or cleats as they may cause indentations in your flooring.
- ❖ Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
- ❖ Never slide or roll heavy objects across the floor.

Protecting Your Floor

- ❖ Use of mats at entrances will help keep grit and moisture from being tracked in. Avoid rubber, foam or plastic-backed mats as they may discolor the wood. To prevent slippage, use an approved vinyl rug underlay.
- ❖ A protective mat should be used for furniture or chairs with castors.
- ❖ Use of felt pads or floor protectors under furniture will protect your floor from scratches and minimize indentations from heavy objects.
- ❖ Keep your pets nails trimmed to keep them from scratching your flooring.
- ❖ Periodically rearranging your area rugs and furniture will allow the flooring to age evenly. UV sunlight will soften the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees.