



Guide to Caring for Your Hardwood Floors

Regular maintenance requires little more than sweeping with a soft bristle broom. If your wood floors have a beveled edge that collects debris, use a vacuum with a soft floor attachment to clean them. For a less frequent, more intensive clean, we recommend periodically cleaning hardwood floors with a professional wood floor cleaning product. Our favorite product is Bona Cleaner for water or oil based finishes. Bona Cleaner can be purchased at Home Depot or Lowe's.

Here are some quick steps you can take to minimize maintenance and maintain the beauty of your wood floors as well:

- Do not use sheet vinyl or tile floor care products on wood floors. Self-polishing acrylic waxes cause wood to become slippery and dull more quickly.
- Use throw rugs both inside and outside doorways to help prevent grit, dirt and other debris from being tracked onto your wood floors. This will prevent scratching.
- Do not wet-mop a wood floor. Standing water can dull the finish, damage the wood and leave a discoloring residue.
- Wipe up spills immediately using a slightly dampened towel. Be sure to wipe away any excess water.
- Do not over-wax a wood floor. If a wax floor dulls, try buffing instead. Avoid wax buildup under furniture and other light traffic areas by applying wax in these spots every other waxing session.
- Put soft plastic or fabric-faced glides under the legs of furniture to prevent scuffing and scratching.
- Avoid walking on your wood floors with cleats, sports shoes and high heels. A 125-pound woman walking in high heels has an impact of 2,000 pounds per square inch. An exposed heel nail can exert up to 8,000 pounds per square inch. This kind of impact can dent any floor surface.
- When moving heavy furniture, do not slide it on wood flooring. It is best to pick up the furniture completely to prevent scratches.
- For wood flooring in the kitchen, place an area rug in front of the kitchen sink.
- Use a humidifier to minimize gaps or cracks.