



Wood Floor Care and Maintenance

Normal maintenance of a prefinished floor is fast and easy. Just follow these two steps.

Step 1

The best way to protect your wood floors is to vacuum regularly. The vacuum cleaner removes dust and abrasive substances from the surface. If you cannot vacuum, use a broom. Frequency: As often as necessary.



Step 2

Spray a small quantity of cleaner on your mop and swab a section of floor in the same direction as the floorboards. Continue until the entire floor is done. When the mop cover is dirty, reverse it or use the replacement cover. Wash mop covers as required.



Warning

Never use wax, household detergent, or oil-based soap on the floor. These products may discolour and damage the finish and leave a greasy film, making the floor slippery and difficult to maintain afterwards. The greasy film may also make it impossible to apply a restorer coat.

Mixtures of water and vinegar are not recommended for cleaning prefinished flooring, since vinegar has an oxidizing effect on the finish.



WOOD AND WATER

Wood fibers swell when they absorb water, which can damage floors and their finish. When water gets into your floor, it can alter floorboard dimensions, cause discolouration, and lead to mold buildup between boards. Floors in kitchens and entranceways are particularly subject to getting wet¹. Special care must be taken with wood floors in these locations to maintain recommended humidity and temperature levels² and prevent water from getting on the floor.

Warning

Never use large amounts of liquid or water to clean wood floors, and never use a saturated mop.

Recommendations

Wipe up spilled water, liquids, or detergents before they are absorbed by the wood fibers.

Place floor mats at each doorway and in front of the sink, dishwasher, and work areas in the kitchen.

Place leakproof saucers under your plants to avoid accidental spills. Choose pots with a waterproof glaze rather than porous clay pots that may let water through.





WOOD AND ABRASIVES

Abrasives are bad news for your floors. Sand and small pebbles underfoot act like sandpaper on the finish. Even a tiny pebble can damage a finish or leave a mark.

Recommendations

Vacuum as often as necessary. Place mats inside and outside all exterior doors. Mats should trap abrasives while allowing the floor to breathe.

WOOD AND HUMIDITY

Wood is a natural material that constantly reacts to variations in temperature and humidity. Ideally, the internal moisture level of wood should be between 6% and 9%. Wood swells when it absorbs excess humidity from the air, and contracts when humidity levels fall too low. Floorboards with higher than normal moisture levels may bulge slightly, whereas spaces will appear between the floorboards if moisture levels are too low. Generally, wood resumes its original dimensions when conditions return to normal.

Recommendations

Maintain relative humidity between 35% and 50% and a temperature of approximately 20° Celsius (68°F) in your home in order to preserve the internal humidity of the wood and thus its dimensional stability. These conditions are ideal for humans as well. If necessary, use appropriate appliances like air exchangers, heating systems, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, etc. to control these environmental conditions.



TO AVOID MARKING YOUR FLOORS

The species of wood used to make our flooring offer a high level of compression resistance. However, if pressure exerted on a wood floor is greater than its compression resistance, marking will result. Pressure is determined by an object's weight and the surface in contact with the floor. The smaller the contact surface for an equivalent weight, the greater the pressure.

Warning

Avoid wearing high-heeled shoes on hardwood floors as they can mar the surface. Heel surfaces



are so small that the pressure exerted can easily reach 3,500 pounds per square inch. Worn or broken heels can mar flooring even more. Avoid walking on flooring in footwear with cleats or metal-tipped soles.



Recommendations

Glue felt pads to the legs of furniture and chairs to avoid scratching flooring when objects are moved. Periodically examine the pads for wear and replace when needed.

Avoid rolling chairs with casters on the finished surface. Put them on rugs or Plexiglas chair mats.



Place floor protectors under narrow casters, or replace them with wide rubber or flexible polyurethane casters.

Regularly trim your pets' claws to prevent scratches and indentations.

Do not drag furniture or heavy objects across the finished surface. Lift any furniture to be moved or place it on a piece of plywood (to distribute the load) laid on a blanket in order to slide it along the floor.



CHANGES IN COLOUR

The urethane factory finish on flooring has a protective screen that filters out UV rays causing yellowing and helps you maintain the original appearance of your floor for as long as possible. We nonetheless recommend that you protect wood surfaces from sunlight or any source of bright artificial light. Move rugs and furniture from time to time to ensure that the colour of the floor remains even as it gradually ages.

TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS

Here are some simple tips for dealing with everyday problems.

Spilled liquid

Quickly wipe up spills with a dry cloth or paper towel, then spray the appropriate floor cleaner on a cloth to clean the surface.



Sticky or oily stain

Dampen a cloth with an appropriate floor cleaner then rub the soiled area. Rinse the cloth and wipe the surface thoroughly.

Rubber or heel marks

Rub with a cloth lightly dampened with an appropriate floor cleaner.

Stubborn stains

Ink, tar, wax crayon, etc. First, try cleaning the stain using a cloth and a wood floor cleaner. If this doesn't work, pour a small amount of paint thinner or lighter fluid on a dry cloth. Once you have removed the stain, wipe the surface using the wood floor cleaner to remove any residue.

Scratched wood or finish

Small scratches in the urethane finish can be repaired with a touch-up kit (A Bousada representative can tell you where to purchase one).

Deep marks



Floorboards damaged by a blow from a heavy object or for any other reason can be easily replaced.

How to do minor floorboard repairs

- a. Warm the crayon slightly to soften the putty.
- b. Fill the cavity.
- c. Immediately wipe off the excess putty using a clean cloth and wood floor cleaner.
- d. Apply a thin coat of urethane to putty. Let dry about 1 hour.

