

The Homeowner's Guide: Wood Floor Care Do's and Don'ts

Some of the most detrimental mistakes when it comes to hardwood floor care are typically the ones that seem harmless. Our guide is designed to help you incorporate these habits into your everyday life to ensure your hardwood floors stay in "like new" condition and prevent damage.

The Do's

1. Regularly vacuum, sweep, or dust to maintain the floor finish. General cleaning once a week is recommended to maintain your floor's luster and shine.
2. Remove all messes or spills promptly with a soft damp cloth. Only use cleaners specifically made for urethane treated floors - SVB recommends Bona hardwood floor cleaning products.
3. Furniture should not be put back in place until 48 hours after floor is finished. Attach felt pad floor protectors to the bottom of furniture. Make sure that floor protectors are clean of grit, and are periodically replaced to avoid dirt buildup. Also, always carry (never slide) furniture to its place--even when utilizing felt pads.
4. Utilize rugs and mats in high traffic areas of your home to trap incoming dirt and sand. Wait 2-3 weeks after the floor has been finished before using area rugs or mats. This will allow the floor to get proper air to cure. Air flow helps with the curing process, and extends the life of your wood floors.
5. Keep the sun off your floors by closing blinds or draperies on hot, sunny days. This way you can control how much sunlight is coming in, and prevent your wood floors from fading over time.
6. Utilize a humidifier in the winter months to help stabilize seasonal dryness.

The Don'ts

1. Let sand or dirt build up on your floor. They can act like sandpaper, abrading and dulling your floor's finish.
2. Wear high heels on your wood floors. Although it might not cause immediate damage, heels can cause indentations over time and are prone to accidental scratching. If you have pets, trim their nails or have them wear pet booties.
3. Use area rugs with rubber or vinyl backing attached. Certain chemicals in the backing can react with floor finishes causing discoloration or dulling of the finish.
4. Use wax, oil soap, or other harsh household cleaners on finished wood floors. They can dull the floor finish and make refinishing difficult.
5. Use cloths or mops that are dripping with water. Excess water can cause the floor to swell or warp. If your floors do get wet, dry them immediately.
6. Allow excessive swings in humidity levels - aim to keep your home's humidity levels between 35 and 55 percent. Unstable humidity levels will cause wood floors to swell, shrink, cup, crack, and show excessive expansion cracks between the boards.

How To Clean Common Household Accidents



GREASE SPOTS: To remove grease, tar, or oil, wipe with a cloth dampened with the appropriate floor cleaner, followed by buffing with a clean, dry cloth.



FOOD, WATER, PET SPOTS: Remove with a damp cloth, followed by buffing with a clean cloth.



WAX OR CHEWING GUM: Apply crushed ice contained in a plastic bag, until material is brittle enough to crumble off the floor surface. Remove any remaining material using a cloth dampened with a mild cleaning solution, then buff with a clean, dry cloth.



STUBBORN STAINS, SPILLS: Wipe with a clean cloth dampened with the appropriate floor cleaner.

Follow these 3 easy steps when cleaning your floors:

1. Vacuum or sweep floor to remove any loose dirt or sand
2. Lightly mist a 4' x 6' area of your floor using your Bona spray bottle
3. Using a slightly dampened, well wrung-out Bona Micro Plus cleaning pad, thoroughly clean the floor in a back and forth motion using your Bona Micro Plus mop. Finish one area completely before moving on to the next.

Need professional hardwood floor supplies?



To purchase any cleaning supplies, wax, tung oil and any other finishes not mentioned please call our office and we will provide you with the necessary products and information to maintain your hardwood floors. **Call to order: (816) 965-8655**