



Flooring Maintenance Guidelines

(from the National Hardwood Flooring Association: www.woodfloors.org)

With today's advances in wood flooring stains and finishes, cleaning your natural floors (including bamboo, cork, palm, teak or Marmoleum) has never been easier. Regular maintenance requires little more than sweeping with a soft bristle broom or Swiffer, and vacuuming with a soft floor attachment if your wood floor includes a beveled edge that could collect debris. You also should clean your floors periodically with a professional wood floor cleaning product (non-wax hardwood floor cleaner found at most home improvement stores).

Preventive Maintenance

There are other steps you can take to minimize maintenance and maintain the beauty of your wood floors as well.

1. Do not use sheet vinyl or tile floor care products on wood floors. Self-polishing acrylic waxes cause wood to become slippery and appear dull quickly.
2. 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.
3. Do not wet-mop a wood floor. Standing water can dull the finish, damage the wood and leave a discoloring residue.
4. Wipe up spills immediately with a slightly dampened towel.
5. Do not wax a pre-finished wood floor.
6. Put soft plastic or fabric-faced glides under the legs of furniture to prevent scuffing and scratching.
7. 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.
8. When moving heavy furniture, do not slide it on wood flooring. It is best to pick up the furniture completely to protect the wood flooring.
9. For wood flooring in the kitchen, place an area rug in front of the kitchen sink.
10. Control humidity in the home. Even though some Earth-Friendly flooring such as bamboo is more stable than conventional woods, they still expand and contract with changes in airborne moisture. Put a humidity gauge in the house. The ideal humidity level is less than 60 percent. If you have the house open and see the humidity go over that number for more than 24 hours, you should close up and put on the A/C. With the A/C on, you should get below 60 percent. If not, you should have an HVAC contractor take a look at whether your system is operating or sized properly. Stand-alone dehumidification may be an option, as well.