

General Tips to Keep Your Hardwood & Laminate Floors Looking Great

Vacuum and / or dust mop regularly. Vacuum floors as often as you vacuum your carpets. Do not ever use “vinegar and water” to clean a wood or laminate floor – vinegar is an acid and can damage the finish of the floor over time.

Wipe up spills right away with a damp white cloth or paper towel. Then pat area dry.

Trim pet claws to keep your best friend from scratching your floor.

For general cleaning of soiled areas, dip or spray a clean cloth with the manufacturer’s recommended cleaner (although I am partial to the cleaner by LamanatorPlus™ - as it is ph neutral and will not leave any residue whatsoever). The cloth should be slightly moistened – not wet. As you clean the floor, follow by wiping the floor dry. Do not over moisten unnecessarily.

Use mats and rugs at all exterior doors. Throw rugs inside entrances are also helpful. Both keep dirt from tracking in that can scratch your floor. Small stones, mud, and gritty dirt tracked in from outside can and will harm the finish of your floor. Remember that if you use a “remnant” to put something on the back of it – otherwise the backing can scratch your floors!

Protect your floor from direct sunlight because it speeds up the oxidization of chemicals in the wood and can change its color. To avoid uneven coloring, move area rugs and furniture occasionally. Also, cover any large west-facing windows, particularly when the sun is at its most intense.

Put fabric glides under the legs of your furniture so it can slide easily without scuffing the floor’s

finish. Clean or replace the inexpensive pads regularly, as dirt can get embedded in them. For extremely heavy furniture, like pianos, use wide, non-staining rubber cups to keep the weight from denting the floor.

Avoid household dust treatments intended for furniture. These products can leave a slippery film on the surface that attracts dirt and can dull the finish.

Don’t use oil soaps because many brands can actually damage or dull the finish of your floor. They also attract dirt.

Hardwood Floors

Don’t use a wet mop – water and wood floors don’t mix.

Avoid wax-based products if your floor has a polyurethane finish. A paste wax will form a sticky film on your urethane finish that traps dirt and will prove difficult to finish again. In the event that you want to renew the finish at a later date, the use of waxes may prevent this, requiring you to re-sand the entire floor.

Laminate Floors

Never wax a laminate floor. Laminate floors have a very dense surface and floor waxes will not stick to the surface.

Don’t wet-mop a laminate floor. This could cause swelling, warping, de-lamination and joint-line separation, and void the warranty.

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