



HARDWOOD FLOOR CARE

Hardwood flooring provides your home with a timeless character and style that enhances any decor. To keep it beautiful and protect your investment, you will need to take certain precautions to ensure the proper care and preservation of your floors. As with any floor covering material, a few moments of care and a little common sense can go a long way in keeping your new hardwood floor looking its best. Here are a few simple suggestions to help you care for your new hardwood floor.



CONTROLLING HUMIDITY

Because hardwood flooring is a living material, it will expand and contract with changes in humidity. During the hot and humid summer months, wood floors will expand, and they will contract during the dry, winter heating season. Repetitive expansion and contraction can cause cupping in high humidity and gaps to form between floorboards in dry conditions. To prevent this, it is important to maintain consistent humidity levels throughout the year. **A relative humidity level between 35% to 45% is recommended.** This is ideal not only for your floors but also for your health. To maintain this level, the use of a dehumidifier is recommended during the summer months and a humidifier during the winter. An air conditioner also acts as a dehumidifier, removing moisture from the air. Problems related to moisture level variation can also be minimized with proper ventilation.

CLEANING YOUR HARDWOOD FLOOR

The pre-finished surface on your hardwood flooring is a durable, urethane finish. This no-wax finish consists of several coats of factory-applied urethane cured under ultraviolet light that enhances the natural beauty of the wood. The finish seals the open pores of the wood so most household dirt and spills are repelled, never touching the wood's surface. It also contains UV light filters to protect against sun damage. To keep the finish looking its best, keep the floor surface free from dust, grit, sand and abrasive particles by sweeping regularly with a proper mop and vacuum. Remove marks and discolorations from the surface with floor cleaner specifically designed for use on pre-finished wood floors, Varsol or mineral spirits. Do not use any wax cleaner that must be mixed with water such as oil soap, as this may dull the finish and permanently damage the floor.

KEEP WATER OFF THE FLOOR SURFACE...

Never wet mop or clean your hardwood floor with water. Wipe up spills as soon as possible, before they get sticky or dry. Avoid tracking water onto your floors by protecting your floors at exterior doorways with mats or rugs. Remove dried spills with a cloth or pad dampened with a no wax floor cleaner.



PROTECTING YOUR HARDWOOD FLOOR

Although the floor's finish is very durable and resistant, sharp and pointed objects can cause damage to your floor. Wood floors will show indentation marks caused by high pressure points such as high-heeled shoes. Use floor protectors on the feet of furniture to avoid scratches. When moving heavy furniture or appliances slip a blanket or scrap of carpet, face down under each leg and slide the furniture carefully. This will help avoid scratching and gouging. Pet nails can also cause surface scratches and should be kept trimmed. If your floor abuts exterior doors, put outside doors mats at the entrances to keep dirt and moisture from being tracked in. Inside you may want to add an area rug to further prevent dirt and moisture from being tracked onto your hardwood floor. Don't use rubber foam back or plastic mats as they may discolour the floor. Normal exposure to sunlight will bring about changes in the shading of any hardwood floor as the floor ages. Area rugs should be moved occasionally as they may block sunlight and give the appearance of "discolouring" under the rug, which is not a defect.

DO NOT...

- Use water or water-based cleaners to clean your hardwood floors
- Use wax polishes or cleaners on your floors
- Allow spills or dirt to remain on the floor surface

DO...

- Maintain relative humidity between 35% - 45%
- Protect high-traffic areas with non-rubber-backed area carpets
- Protect furniture legs with felt pads

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

To find more specific information on the brand of flooring installed in your home, please contact the appropriate manufacturer listed below:

Mirage Floors
1-800-463-1303
www.miragefloors.com

Satin Finish Hardwood Flooring
1-800-607-2846
www.satinfinish.com

Bruce Hardwood Floors
1-800-233-3823
www.bruce.com