

HARDWOOD FLOOR CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Refinish My Floors, LLC

- Sweep or vacuum regularly to remove dirt and grit.
- Damp mop with a wood-safe cleaner; avoid excess water
- Wipe up spills immediately to prevent water damage
- Use area rugs in high-traffic areas and at entrances
- Place furniture pads under legs to prevent scratches
- Maintain indoor humidity levels between 30-50%
- Avoid harsh chemicals, ammonia-based, and abrasive cleaners
- Consider refinishing every 10–15 years for renewed beauty

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Caring For Your Wood Floor

Since the overwhelming majority of wood floors are composed of solid hardwood, this care guide applies specifically to this type of flooring.

Properly finished wood is the easiest of all floor surfaces to keep clean and looking like new, year after year, with only minimal care.

How minimal? Vacuum and/or dust mop weekly or more often if merited. Vacuuming is the best way to remove surface dust and dirt before it gets walked into the finish and dulls its luster. Vacuuming also pulls accumulated dust from the grooves of factory finished and plank floors.

Some wood floor care guidelines will depend on the type of floor finish. However, there are a number of preventive maintenance tips that are the first steps in caring for your wood floors, regardless of the finish type.

First and foremost, **wood and water don't mix**. No matter what finish your wood floor has, never pour water on your floor. While a slightly dampened mop may be used on polyurethane and other surface finishes in good condition, even small amounts of water can cause the deterioration of finishes and warp the underlying wood.

Also, when using any maintenance product, please read the label. Always follow label directions for maintenance products, except for directions which call for using water on wood. Always use only products specifically designed for wood floors. Contact your local wood flooring distributor for products and specific cleaning recommendations.



If it's not NOFMA, it's not certified.

NOFMA is the foremost authority on wood floors. For more information about wood flooring manufacturing standards, wood floor care, or any other questions regarding wood flooring, visit www.nofma.org or call 901-526-5016.



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Preventive Maintenance

You can keep your car running better and longer when you regularly change your oil, check your tire pressure, and keep your radiator filled with antifreeze. Your wood floors benefit from preventive maintenance just as much as your car does. The following are some maintenance tips for keeping your floors looking great for years and years.

- Dirt and grit act just like sandpaper on any floor. To keep grit from entering in your home use dirt-trapping, walk-off mats at all exterior doors. NOFMA recommends placing throw-rugs or small sections of carpet just inside the entrances. Always remember to keep door mats clean.
- Vacuum regularly, as often as you vacuum carpets; a brush attachment works beautifully. Don't use the beater bar; it can damage the finish. Sweep or use an untreated dust mop daily or as needed, but do not use a household dust treatment as this may cause your floor to become slick, dull the finish, or interfere with re-coating. Please be aware that vacuum wheels may scratch the surface.
- Check with the flooring manufacturer before using a micro fiber pad to clean your floor. The micro fibers may catch wood fibers and lift a splinter or cause a tear, exposing unfinished wood.
- It is extremely important that the finish is fully cured (7 to 90 days depending on the type of finish) before placing any rugs, rug pads, etc. on the floor to keep from affecting the finish and leaving a prominent "rug print".
- Use a rug pad with any rug placed on your wood floor. (NOTE: Kitchen mats are the exception to this rule.) For rug pads choose 100% non-solvent based waffle type rubber, an untreated natural fiber such as wool or jute, or 1/2" chopped urethane. Do not use sticky or tacky backers. The plasticizers they use can attack and discolor finish. These same plasticizers may also be present in the backer of some rugs.
- In kitchens, use area rugs at high spill locations and at work stations—stove, sink, and refrigerator. Cotton is generally the best fabric since it is easily washed.

- Some finishes and certain chemicals in wood are affected by ultraviolet light and heat, causing the wood and some finishes to change color, develop a patina, or age. To avoid uneven appearance, move area rugs occasionally and drape or shade large windows.

- Wipe up spills promptly with a dry cloth or paper towel. Use a slightly moistened cloth for sticky spills if necessary, but be sure to wipe the floor dry with another cloth or paper towel.

- Keep heels on shoes in good repair, especially high heels. That also includes most boots with heels, such as cowboy boots. Heels worn away exposing steel support rods or nails will dent and scratch any floor surface, even concrete or steel.

- Pets need a rug for drool and wet coats. Be sure to keep all toys, bones, etc. that have hard corners away from the floor. Also, be sure to trim your pet's nails regularly to avoid deep scratches.

- Put felt fabric glides on the legs of your furniture; they allow furniture to be moved easily without scuffing the floor. Periodically clean glides since grit can become embedded in the fabric. Replace when the glides show wear (typically 6 to 12 months depending on use). Avoid casters made of hard materials like metals or hard plastics. If casters are necessary, use gray, non-marking rubber casters.

- Older furniture with wooden or metal wheels can severely damage wood floors when moved. To avoid damage, place a felt-bottomed coaster under each wheel, allowing the piece to slide, rather than roll, when moved.

Beyond these preventive maintenance tips, your floors will likely need additional care. Before determining what steps to take, you must first identify your floor's finish. The following section will take you through several steps to help identify your finish.

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