

# HARDWOOD FLOORS



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Great Floors takes great pride in our quality workmanship and materials. With proper maintenance and appropriate cleaners, your hardwood will remain beautiful for many years to come.

## CARE OF HARDWOOD FLOORS

Congratulations on having made hardwood floors part of your decorative environment. They are a wonderful investment that will last a lifetime. Hardwood is a product of nature. There are many species of wood available today, each with its own natural characteristics, which adds to the beauty of the products.

A hardwood floor should be expected to show hairline cracks in and between boards. There might also be a slight variation in the height of the boards in relationship to each other. Natural variations in color and grain are to be expected and are not considered to be a product defect. Some pre-finished wood floors are laminated (made up of several layers of hardwood with the top layer being stained and finished).

A space between each board is intentional (necessary for the expansion and contraction of wood due to temperature and moisture changes in the wood). Minor splintering and chipping is considered normal. In this brochure you will find information intended to help you keep your floors as beautiful as the day they were installed or refinished.

**Note: Always follow the manufacturers recommended procedures when known.**

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## PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- Oils from asphalt driveways or roads will tend to leave a stain. Use dirt-trapping, walk-off mats at all exterior doors to prevent as much dirt as possible from coming inside. Soft-backed throw rugs just inside entrances are also helpful. Dirt and grit are ANY floor's worst enemy, including carpet and vinyl.
- Certain chemicals in wood oxidize in strong light causing the wood to change color, weather age, or develop patina. To avoid uneven appearance, move area rugs occasionally and drape or shade large west-facing windows.
- Put felt glides on the legs of furniture. This allows movement without scuffing. Clean the glides regularly as dirt can become embedded in them. Some furniture may require barrel-type roller casters as ball-type caster may cause damage. Grey, non-marking rubber casters are the best. Avoid plastic casters.
- Vacuum regularly (do not use a vacuum with a beater bar), as often as you vacuum carpets. A brush attachment works well. Sweep or use a dust mop daily or as needed, but do not use a household dust treatment as this may cause your floor to become dangerously slick or dull the finish.
- Never damp mop a wax-finished wood floor. There are some finishes that can be damp mopped. In this case, you still need to use minimum water as water causes deterioration of the wood itself as well as the finish.
- Wipe up food and other spills immediately using a damp (not wet) cloth. Then wipe the floor dry with a soft, dry cloth.
- Waxing is not required for some finishes. Be sure you are aware which type finish was used on your floors before attempting to wax them.
- Keep high heels in good repair. High heels can always dent a hardwood floor.

## CARE OF STANDARD HARDWOOD FLOORS

- Keep grit off the floor. Dust mop regularly and keep mats clean.
- Wipe up spills immediately with a soft, dry cloth. Use a damp (not wet) cloth for sticky spills.
- Never damp mop a wood floor. Do not clean your wood floors with water or waterbased products on a regular schedule. Care products specifically formulated for hardwood floors should be used to clean your floors instead of vinegar and water, which will dull the finish over a period of time.
- Buff to restore luster.
- Never wax a surface finish! Once waxed, the floor will be unable to be merely re-coated, but will have to be completely sanded down to raw wood to restore the floor.

## CARE OF TOPICAL STAIN HARDWOOD FLOORS

Due to their light color, these floors will show the effects of dirt and traffic more than those with natural or dark-stained finish will. Therefore, they need more attention. Vacuum or sweep often. Wipe up spills immediately. Follow the maintenance recommended for the type finish used.

Something else you'll probably notice with such finishes are tiny separations between the flooring strips during dry seasons or long heating periods. The amount of moisture in the air is what causes wood to expand or contract. When humidity levels are low, the flooring will contract and the separations will become more noticeable than at other times. The contrast of a white floor surface causes even tiny scratches to appear larger. This is all normal.

Depending on the type of finish used (factory or on-the-job), the light-tinted or white floors may have some shading changes over time. The finish on white or pastel stained floors will appear to diminish or deteriorate faster than a natural stain, especially if in contact with water.

**Hollow Sounds:** No sub-floor is perfectly level. Dips and ridges will remain in the sub-floor even after hardwood floor preparation. There may be hollow sounds where this condition occurs. This condition does not affect the structural integrity of the hardwood or the installation. Hollow sounds are considered normal and are not considered a product or installation defect.

