

Cleaning and Care: Hardwood

Routine Maintenance

Keeping your hardwood floors looking great is quite simple when you keep in mind some simple guidelines:

Frequently sweep and vacuum the floor to remove loose dirt before it can scratch or be ground into the floor's surface.

Never clean or wet mop your hardwood floor with water. Do not use any wax or cleaner that must be mixed with water, such as oil soap, as this may ruin your floor and result in a loss of warranty. Water can dull the finish and permanently damage the floor.

Spread manufacturer's suggested hardwood cleanser directly on the floor and wipe with a sponge mop or appropriate cleaning applicator. Do not allow puddles of cleaner to remain on the floor's surface. Excess liquid may damage the fiber of the wood.

Place walk-off mats designed for hardwood floors at each entryway to minimize spreading dirt and grit throughout the house; remember to shake them out regularly. Tiny particles of dirt and stone are like sandpaper and will scratch your hardwood floors. Avoid using rubber-backed or non-ventilated mats or rugs as they can damage your floor by trapping moisture. Rugs and mats should be moved occasionally as they block sunlight, which may give the appearance of discoloring under the rug.

For spot cleaning, apply cleaner to a clean cloth and rub onto the spot. Never apply wax agents to a urethane floor.