

# Hardwood Floor Care & Maintenance (Waterborne Finish)

## GENERAL PROTECTION OF YOUR FINISHED HARDWOOD FLOOR:

- Before opening doors/windows or walking close to your floor, make sure a minimum of 6-8 hours has passed once the final coat has been applied. We recommend only light traffic in the first 24-48 hours and then, that you wear socks/moccasins only - no shoes, no bare feet.
- Wait a minimum of 3 days before moving furniture and appliances back onto your newly coated floors
- We suggest minimum of 1 week before dogs should walk on the floor. The heavier the dog, the longer the wait time.
- Install proper protectors under “feet” of furniture. Resilient pads such as those made of felt, flexible rubber, and saucer-shaped plastic glides will work for most furniture. Furniture will require different types of protectors in order to achieve maximum weight distribution. Caster wheeled chairs should have wide casters. A protective mat should be used under office chairs.
- Mop your floor as needed with a proper hardwood floor cleaner that will not dull the finish. See Do’s and Don’ts below.
- To help eliminate fine particles of dirt/grit that act like sandpaper and will scratch any floor, vacuum or sweep as needed.
- Wipe up spills immediately.
- Use walk-off mats at entrance doors and in front of kitchen sink. Avoid rubber backed or other non-ventilated mats or rugs. It takes a full 30 days for the floors to cure, so it’s ideal to wait 30 days before putting area rugs on the surface. If you need to/want to put them on sooner, then 2 weeks is another good benchmark, but 30 days is better.
- In possible reoccurring wet spill areas, such as the sink, use a rug in front of those working areas to prevent local premature wear.
- Maintain a minimum humidity level in the room. If necessary, use a humidifier.
- Never use tape or other adhesive products on this surface.
- When the floor loses its luster, it’s time for a recoat. We recommend a recoat every 5-6 years, depending on the finish on your floor. A recoat extends the life of your floor and the need for a full sand and finish.
- We recommend your floors be refinished every 15-20 years or soon as you notice the finish has been worn through (the wood discolors grey in areas where the finish has worn through).

## JOINTS:

- A natural hardwood floor system expands and contracts in response to fluctuations in temperature and humidity. By controlling the environment, maintaining an adequate temperature and relative humidity, you will minimize the visible effects of the seasonal contraction and expansion of your floor. Optimum recommended temperature is 68°F – 72°F and relative humidity is 35% - 55%. The use of a humidifier will most likely be necessary, especially in the heating season.

## AFTER INSTALLATION/REFINISHING:

- If the floor needs to be covered to prevent wear and dirt penetration due to additional construction, use paper or cardboard. Do NOT tape paper or cardboard to the floor to keep it in place. Do NOT adhere any tape to the face of the floor as it will damage the finish. NEVER use plastic, which does not allow the floor to breathe.

Here are a few Do's and Don'ts that will help keep your floor looking as beautiful as the day it was installed:

#### DO:

- ⇒ Follow a regular monthly schedule of floor care with Woodwise® No-Wax, PH balanced, Hardwood floor cleaner or cleaner as per the manufacturers specs.
- ⇒ Wipe up spills immediately.
- ⇒ Move heavy appliances and furniture by sliding them on a piece of thick carpet place faced down on floor or by using safety glides.
- ⇒ Use furniture felt protector pads under all furniture legs.
- ⇒ Replace hard, narrow furniture rollers with wide rubber rollers.
- ⇒ Keep the relative humidity in your home between 35% and 55%. Use the appropriate humidifier or dehumidifier as needed.
- ⇒ Protect your floor from direct sunlight/UV exposure.
- ⇒ Keep pets' nails trimmed and their paws clean. Pets can track in substances that cause scratching and stains.
- ⇒ Use ice to harden tough substances like wax or chewing gum, and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper or a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the surface and wipe the area clean with a soft, slightly damp cloth.
- ⇒ Only use vacuum cleaners that have a setting for hard surfaces. Turn off the beater/brushes on the vacuum cleaner when present.
- ⇒ Use breathable (not rubber backed) rugs both inside and outside doorways to prevent grit, salt, chemicals, sand and moisture from being tracked onto the wood floors. Take special precautions with non-skid pads that are frequently placed under area rugs. Some of these pads may imprint their pattern onto the finish and/or wood floor. Natural fibers may not transfer as much as synthetic pads.
- ⇒ Every 3-6 years a maintenance coat may be desired or required, dependant on traffic.
- ⇒ Every 15-20 years a full sand and refinish may be required, dependant on traffic.

#### DON'T:

- ⇒ Use any of the following products, or similar products in nature, on your floor: oil-based cleaners, ammonia, water based liquid wax, Fantastik®, Formula 409®, dishwashing detergent, powdered all-purpose cleaner, Murphy's Oil Soap®, paste wax, Endust®, Pledge®, Future®, Mop'n'Glo®, Brite®, Orange Glo® or other polishes.
- ⇒ Be aware of hardwood surface revitalization products that claim they add shine or restoration properties. These products often leave a residue of film over your hardwood floors and may compromise the ability to apply a maintenance coat of finish to your floor in the future.
- ⇒ Don't use oil soaps, liquid or paste wax, or other household products containing lemon, citrus, or tung oil, or silicon to clean floors. Don't use 2-in-1 cleaners that contain acrylics or urethane polish to restore gloss.
- ⇒ Stay away from harsh cleaning aids like steel wool pads, any scouring pads containing metal, or scouring powders.
- ⇒ Allow water to stand on your floor for any length of time.
- ⇒ Mop your floor with a wet string mop. Standing water will result in cracks, splits, cupping, warping, degradation of the finish, and leave a discoloring residue.
- ⇒ Use steam cleaners on wood floors. Water in a vapor form will penetrate the wood fiber and cause irreversible damage to the wood flooring and finish.
- ⇒ Walk across your floor in high heels, cleats or with any sharp object protruding from your shoe.
- ⇒ Allow furniture to rest on floor on small metal tips or hard domes.
- ⇒ Lay down carpets or area rugs with rubber or coarse backing. It is recommended that you put down a piece of underlay before using these types of rugs.

*This hardwood floor information is largely based on the National Wood Flooring Association's hardwood floor maintenance standards. For additional information please visit [www.woodfloors.org](http://www.woodfloors.org)*