

HARDWOOD

FLOOR CARE & MAINTENANCE

Hardwood Floor Care & Maintenance

Hardwood floors are a durable, natural surface, but they aren't indestructible. Everyday activities—walking, moving furniture, or pets—can cause scratches, dents, or scuffs. While some wear is normal, regular cleaning, simple protective steps, and maintaining stable indoor conditions can help your floors stay beautiful and perform well for decades.

Routine Cleaning

Dust, dirt, and grit can scratch the floor's surface over time, so regular cleaning is important. For everyday maintenance:

- Sweep using a soft-bristle broom
- Dust mop with a microfiber pad
- Vacuum using a hardwood floor attachment

Avoid vacuum heads with rotating brushes or beater bars, which can damage the surface. Clean high-traffic areas more frequently to prevent buildup of abrasive debris such as sand or small stones.

Periodic Cleaning

When deeper cleaning is needed:

1. Sweep or vacuum to remove loose debris.
2. Use a microfiber mop or soft cleaning pad designed for hardwood floors.
3. Apply a small amount of hardwood floor cleaner to the mop or cloth rather than directly onto the floor.
4. Clean in sections using light pressure.
5. Allow the floor to dry completely before walking on it.

Mops should always be slightly damp, not wet, to avoid excess moisture.

Spill & Spot Cleaning

Spills should be cleaned immediately to prevent staining or moisture damage.

- Blot the spill with a dry cloth or paper towel.
- Wipe the area with a slightly damp cloth or microfiber pad.
- Dry the area thoroughly.

Standing water or excessive moisture should never remain on the floor.

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Preventing Scratches & Wear

While hardwood is durable, it can still be scratched or dented by heavy objects or abrasive debris.

To help protect your floors:

- Install felt pads on furniture legs
- Lift furniture when moving it instead of dragging
- Keep pet nails trimmed
- Use protective mats under rolling chairs or heavy items
- Place rugs or mats in high-traffic areas and entryways

Entry mats are especially important for trapping dirt, sand, and moisture brought in from outside.

Footwear Considerations

Certain types of footwear can damage hardwood flooring.

High heels, cleats, or damaged shoe heels can create dents due to concentrated pressure. Removing shoes indoors can help reduce wear and prolong the life of your floor.

Moisture & Humidity Control

Wood is a natural material that expands and contracts as humidity levels change.

To maintain stable conditions, indoor humidity should generally remain between 30% and 50% year-round.

Proper humidity control helps prevent issues such as:

- Cupping – edges of boards rise due to excess moisture
- Gapping – small spaces appear between boards when conditions become too dry

Humidifiers or dehumidifiers may be helpful in maintaining consistent indoor conditions.

Sunlight & Natural Color Changes

Over time, exposure to sunlight and indoor lighting may cause hardwood flooring to gradually change color. This is a natural characteristic of real wood.

To help maintain a more uniform appearance:

- Move rugs and furniture occasionally
- Allow light exposure to reach different areas of the floor over time

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Cleaning Products & Methods to Avoid

Some products and cleaning methods can damage hardwood flooring or leave residue that attracts dirt.

Avoid using:

- Wax or wax-based products
- Oil soaps or oil-based cleaners
- Harsh household cleaners or bleach
- Vinegar and water solutions
- Steam mops or steam cleaning
- Wet mopping or excessive water
- Abrasive pads or scouring tools

Always use cleaning products specifically designed for hardwood floors and approved by the manufacturer.

Long-Term Care

Over time, floors in high-traffic areas may show normal wear. Depending on the condition of the floor, it may be possible to restore the appearance through professional maintenance such as recoating or refinishing.

Consistent routine care will help extend the life of your hardwood floor and keep it looking its best for years.

Questions about caring for your floors?

Our team is here to help! Visit us at MullenCarpet.com, call 607-276-5200, or email MullenCarpet@gmail.com. And remember to check the manufacturer's website for additional care instructions and resources.