

MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR SOLID AND ENGINEERED WOOD

- Wood will expand and contract with change in humidity. This affect can be minimized with the use of humidity control in the home.
- Dirt and grit act like sandpaper on the finish, causing scratches, dents, and dulling. To protect floors from dirt or water, place rugs at entry points to help trap grit and absorb moisture that may damage the finish. However, note that rugs with rubber bottoms or non-skid pads may leave an imprint on the floor. Natural fiber rugs are a safer choice.
- Regularly sweep or vacuum the floor with a soft brush to prevent abrasive dirt and dust from accumulating and scratching the finish. Vacuuming should only be done with machines that have a hard surface setting to prevent damage from the rollers.
- Do not wet mop your hardwood floor. Excessive water causes wood to expand, possibly damaging the floor. You may use specialty hardwood sprays or cleaners with a damp but not dripping cloth to clean soiled areas. Avoid mopping entire floor with any large amounts of water or unapproved cleaners. Dry dust mops are OK. Mops with larger heads are recommended for easier cleaning.
- Never use wax, oil-based detergent, or any other household cleaners on the floors. These may dull or damage the finish, leaving a greasy film and making the floor slippery and more difficult to clean. Do not use spray polishes or other cleaners that are designed for other types of wood furnishings [i.e. Endust, Pledge]. Neutral pH cleaners made specifically for wood floors are recommended instead.
- Do not try to wax your urethane finished wood floor, as it may ruin the finish.
- Do not use ammonia on wood floors.
- Be especially attentive to the sink, dishwasher, stove top, and dining room, which are more prone to harmful spills. Standing water can warp a poorly finished hardwood floor and can damage the finish. Simply wipe up all spills as they happen.
- Placing a floor mat in front of the kitchen sink is highly recommended. However, excess moisture may become trapped underneath the mat, so be sure to keep it dry. After dishes are washed make sure to dry mop the kitchen to pick up water droplets.
- Add felt pads to all furniture and chair legs to prevent damage to the floor. Replace the felt pads when dirty or worn. For extremely heavy objects, use wide, non-staining rubber cups.
- Damaged or worn high heeled shoes may expose a metal tip which is certain to damage the surface finish. Keep high heeled shoes in good condition.
- Pet's nails can scratch and mar wood floors. Keep dog and cat nails properly trimmed to protect your floor.
- Protect your floor against direct sunlight or any intense source of artificial lighting. Over time, intense natural and artificial light will discolor hardwood floors.

**BY FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE GUIDELINES,
YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR WOOD FLOOR FOR MANY YEARS TO COME**