

INOVAR LAMINATE FLOORING MAINTENANCE

Since the inception of laminate flooring, ease of maintenance has been one of its largest assets. Due to the composition and construction of the product, as well as the extremely hard Aluminum Oxide wear layer, laminate flooring is perhaps the easiest type of flooring to maintain.

General daily maintenance requires vacuuming, sweeping, and dust mopping. Several generic cleaning solutions are also available to clean laminate floors. Most major laminate flooring manufacturers also have their own cleaning kits with instructions. Most kits contain a terry cloth mop and a spray-on cleaning solution. The cleaner is sprayed onto the mop-head and then the floor is wiped clean. It is very important that you follow the maintenance schedule of the product you purchase.

Laminate floors are fade, stain, dent, burn, and scratch resistant. However, it is still possible that you may end up with a scratch, "nick", or dent that will require repair. Laminate flooring is very tough, but it is not "bullet proof". If a problem arises, there are a few ways to repair or hide the damage.

The first and most difficult method is to replace the affected board(s). All manufacturers have instructions on how to replace a board. This will require some tools, patience, and skill. "Glue-less" laminate floors should be the easiest when board replacement is required. To replace a board you must follow the specific instructions of the manufacturer of the flooring you are installing, or hire a professional. If you decide to hire a professional installer, make sure that they follow the instructions as well. Although they may have "done it before", remember that it is your warranty you must consider.

The best way to keep your laminate floor looking its best is to understand its limitations. You must follow the maintenance techniques and schedules of the flooring you purchase. Do not mop any laminate floor with soap or water. You should also use floor protectors (felt or other) under chairs and other furniture on the flooring. As stated earlier, laminate flooring is a very durable flooring option, however, it can be damaged. With proper care, you will enjoy your laminate floor for many years to come.

INOVAR LAMINATE CLEANING GUIDELINES

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
- For tough spots, such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar, use a small amount of baking soda as a very light and gentle abrasive substance. You may use it dry, or make a paste with a bit of water. Rub lightly with a clean white cloth, and then wipe the area clean with a damp cloth to remove any remaining residue.
- Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.
- Periodically clean the floor with cleaning products made specifically for laminate floor care. For optimum results, we recommend Bona Kemi Hard Surfaces Flooring Cleaner.
- Do not wash or wet mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soap detergent, or any other liquid cleaning products. This could cause swelling, warping, delamination, and joint-line separation, which will void the warranty.
- Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
- Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
- For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.
- A more frequent dust-mopping or vacuuming schedule may be required in very sandy areas such as a beach home.