

## How to Maintain Your Hardwood Floor

Properly maintaining your floor will allow you to re-coat, re-wax, and refinish less often. Here are some tips to help you care for your floor:

### **Read the label.**

Always follow the maintenance directions from the manufacturer. Pay particular attention to what products should and should not be used on your floor.

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### **Clean regularly and properly.**

Sweep daily (or as needed), but only with a soft-bristle broom. Vacuum weekly, using a brush or soft floor attachment. This is especially important if your floor has a beveled edge.

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### **If you wax...**

Occasional buffing will remove scuff marks in the way coating and restore the coatings's shine. Heavy traffic areas may need to be re-waxed more often than other areas.

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### **Avoid build-up of cleaning products.**

Use a professional wood floor cleaning product to clean your floors. Do not use a dust treatment products, which could cause your floor to become slick, dull the finish, and interfere with re-coating. Do not use products meant for sheet vinyl or tile floors either.

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### **Prevent water damage.**

Standing water can dull the finish, damage the wood, and leave a discoloring residue.

Wipe up spills immediately. Place rugs where spills are likely to occur, e.g. in front of the kitchen sink. (Use cotton rugs, which can be easily washed. Avoid rugs with a smooth backing, as they could trap water underneath them.

Don't wet-mop a wood floor. For sticky spills, use only a damp (i.e., thoroughly-wrung and not dripping) mop or cloth. Wax-coated finishes should NEVER be cleaned or maintained with water, not even a damp mop, as the moisture can cause dullness or water spots.

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### **Avoid damage from UV light.**

Certain chemicals in wood and some finishes are affected by ultraviolet light. As such, the wood and finish may change color (usually developing an aged appearance) when exposed to light. You may wish to shade your windows or at least move your furniture and rugs around regularly, to avoid uneven color changes.

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### **Avoid scratching and dents.**

Rugs will keep debris off of your floors. This will prevent scratching and dulling.

Put soft carpet or fabric-faced glides under the legs of furniture to prevent scuffing and scratching. When moving heavy furniture, do not slide it on wood flooring. Instead, pick up the furniture completely. Clean the glides regularly, as grit can become embedded in them.

Ball-type casters on your heavy furniture may cause damage, so switch to barrel-type roller casters. Avoid casters made of hard materials like metals or hard plastics; look for grey, non-marking rubber casters instead.

Avoid walking on your wood floors with cleats, sports shoes, and high heels. If you do walk on your floors with these, make sure the heels and cleats are not worn through.

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### **Prevent gaps and cracks**

Keep your home's humidity level between 35% and 55%. This will keep wood movement and shrinkage to a minimum.

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### **Fix signs of wear.**

When traffic areas begin to show wear, you should re-coat or re-finish is ventilated before doing so.