



The Hardwood Care & Maintenance Guide

Love your floors for years to come!



We don't just deliver floors—we provide peace of mind.

Whether you've just completed a renovation or are a first-time home buyer, knowing how to care for your new floors may be unfamiliar.

Many homeowners don't realize that every flooring material has its own care requirements—and that traditional cleaning methods may not be safe or effective for today's advanced surfaces. That's why we created this guide: to offer clear, practical care instructions tailored to your specific flooring type. With the right steps, you'll not only preserve the look and feel of your new floors but also protect the investment you've made.

But this guide is more than a manual—it's part of the ongoing commitment Floor Coverings International® has made to you as your trusted, local flooring partner, offering expert-level support before, during, and long after installation.

Thank you for trusting us. We're proud to be part of your home—today and for years to come.



Care and Maintenance

Caring for Hardwood

Hardwood floors bring natural warmth, elegance, and timeless appeal to your home—but they do require some mindful care to keep them looking their best. With the right habits and a consistent routine, you can protect your floors from wear, scratches, and moisture—especially in busy households with kids, pets, or heavy traffic.

Care Checklist

Weekly

- Sweep or dry mop 2-3 times per week to remove grit that can scratch.
- Vacuum with a hardwood floor attachment.
 - Avoid beater bars.
- Mop that is “lightly” dampened (less is more) with a hardwood-safe cleaner 1 time per week or as needed.
 - Avoid soaking the floor. Less water is best.

Monthly

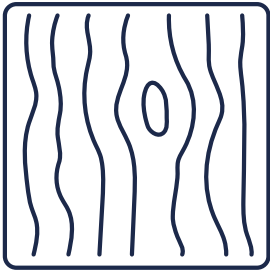
- Check for buildup in corners and edges.
 - Use a soft-bristle brush to gently clean.

Seasonally

- Rotate area rugs and furniture to prevent uneven wear and sun fading.
- Evaluate high-traffic zones for damage or scratches.

Every 3–5 Years

- Professional recoat or refinish to maintain durability and appearance.
 - Recoating is needed when high-traffic areas or areas susceptible to moisture begin to look dull or cloudy. This is a sign that the wear layer is deteriorating and needs to be recoated.
- Since recoating does not remove the existing wear layer, this is always preferred to complete refinishing unless that is necessary to address scratches deeper than the wear layer itself or to change the color of the floor itself.
 - Many modern hardwood floors are prefinished and utilize enhanced finishes such as aluminum oxide. Ideally you don’t want to sand this away unless you have to.



Caring for Hardwood

General Care Tips

Dust Regularly

Dust and dirt can act like sandpaper on hardwood. Daily dusting with a microfiber mop or cloth prevents buildup and helps avoid fine scratches. Aim for at least 2–3 times a week in high-traffic areas.



Use Furniture Pads to Prevent Scratches

Furniture is destined to move, even if just slightly, as a part of everyday life. These small shifts can lead to scratches and scuffs on your hardwood. Simply apply soft, adhesive pads to the bottoms of chairs, tables, and furniture legs. They create a buffer between the furniture and your flooring, helping prevent damage while still allowing for easy movement.



Maintain Consistent Humidity

Maintaining consistent indoor humidity is essential for preserving the beauty and durability of hardwood floors. Because wood naturally expands and contracts with changes in moisture, fluctuations in humidity can lead to gapping, cupping, or even buckling over time. Keeping humidity levels stable—ideally between 35–65%—protects the structural integrity of your flooring.

» Tip: Use humidifiers in dry months and dehumidifiers or AC units during humid seasons to maintain the ideal environment for your hardwood floors all year-round.



Use the Right Materials

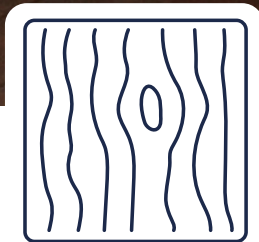
Different hardwood finishes need different cleaners. Always check your floor's **warranty** or manufacturer's guidelines first. Use pH-neutral, hardwood-specific cleaning solutions. Avoid vinegar, ammonia, steam mops, or oil soaps—they can dull or damage the finish.

» Tip: Test any new product on a small, hidden section before applying it across the whole floor.



Avoid Steam Mops on Hardwood Floors

Excessive heat and moisture can cause damage. Steam penetrates joints and can cause cupping, swelling, or finish degradation. Almost all hardwood warranties are voided if a steam mop is used.



Care and Maintenance

Caring for Hardwood

Care Tips for Life with Pets & Children



Pet-Friendly Tips

- Trim pet nails regularly to prevent gouges.
- Place rugs or mats in play areas, entryways, and under food bowls.
- Use felt pads on toys, baby walkers, and furniture legs.
- Set up a pet paw-wiping station by the door to catch dirt and moisture before it hits your floors.

Protect Play Zones for Children

- For areas where kids and pets spend the most time, consider adding a rug pad beneath area rugs to protect against accidental spills and hard bumps.



Care and Maintenance

Warranties

Partnering with Leading Flooring Manufacturers

Floor Coverings International® partners with leading manufacturers like **Shaw Floors** and **Mohawk** to bring you the highest quality flooring options on the market. These trusted brands are known for their innovation, durability, and design excellence, ensuring that every project meets the highest standards. Our manufacturers also offer warranty coverage for product defects, ensuring that issues like stains on a stain-resistant carpet are addressed. It's important to note that these warranties generally do not cover regular wear and tear.

By working directly with these industry leaders, Floor Coverings International® provides exclusive selections, cutting-edge materials, and expert guidance to help customers find the perfect flooring for their homes.

Full Coverage, Full Confidence

Since you purchase your flooring and installation together from us, you're fully protected! And if any issues arise, we handle it and represent you directly with the manufacturer.



Floor Coverings International® offers a warranty of at least one (1) year on installation and workmanship with extended warranties available at select locations.* Most competitors only cover one year or less.* Also, products showcased in the Mobile Flooring Showroom® come with a factory-direct limited warranty provided by the manufacturer. These guarantees will cover manufacturer defects and typically last for up to 10 years.

**This guarantee may vary based on project location or for commercial-grade installations.*