

Maintenance

Mohawk Engineered Hardwood Floors are very easily maintained. No wax, no mess. The best way to care for your new floor is to schedule routine maintenance, which includes sweeping the entire floor at least once a week to remove dirt and debris that may scratch the floor. High traffic areas such as entrances and doorways will require cleaning more frequently, depending upon the amount of concentrated foot traffic. Following these easy steps is the key to keeping your new floor looking beautiful for years to come.

Step One: Vacuum or sweep the floor to remove any particles that could scratch the floor. **Warning: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a floor and should never be used.**

Step Two: Apply hardwood cleaner directly to the flooring mop, not the floor.

Step Three: Use a back and forth motion with the mop. When the mop cover becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. The covers are reusable, so simply throw the cover in the wash and dry it with any towel.

- **DO NOT** use steam cleaners, spray cleaners, or any device that sprays liquids directly onto the floor. Water can cause damage to wood flooring.
- **NEVER** use oil soaps, wax, liquid detergent or other household products to clean the floor.

Tips and Warnings

- Sweep regularly with a soft bristle broom.
- Remove spills promptly and use Performance Accessories Cleaner.
- Use felt protectors under heavy pieces of furniture and chairs.
- Use protective mats at all exterior entrances.
- Never use rubber or latex backed rugs on your floor. We recommend the use of Mohawk rugs and non-slip rug pads. Rug pads should extend all the way to the edges of the rug to work properly. Regularly clean under rugs and rug pads.
- Spiked heels or shoes in need of repair can severely damage the floor.
- Replace plastic or metal wheels or castors on furniture with soft rubber castors--or use a protective mat under the existing castors.
- Never wet or damp mop your floors.
- Never use steam cleaners on your floor. This will force moisture into the finish and cause damage to your floor.
- Never use oil soaps, wax, or other common household products to clean your floor.
- Keep pet nails trimmed as recommended by your veterinarian.
- Protect your floor by using a clean dolly with soft rubber tires for moving furniture or appliances.
- Use protective window coverings to protect hardwood floors from excessive heat during periods of direct sunlight.

Avoiding Scratches and Dents

With today's active lifestyles it is important to note that hardwood flooring can and will scratch and dent. See Tips and Warnings for protecting your hardwood floor. In order to prevent excessive abuse, the use of strategically placed mats and area rugs as well as floor protectors on chair and table legs are a must.

Transition Mats

Transition mats should be used at all exterior entrances to minimize tracked in soil and reduce moisture during inclement weather. Ideally, the purchase of two sets of transition mats for each exterior entrance will allow a fresh one to replace the soiled one weekly during routine cleaning. This will prevent the transition mat from becoming a soil source.

Protection from Sunlight

Hardwood contains certain types of acids in its cellular structure. With exposure to sunlight, these acids begin to amber. The color change is referred to as patina. The wood will reach its own natural warm patina level and stop ambering. The amount of patina is directly related to the species, amount of acids and the level of sunlight present. This effect is often noticed after a rug is removed and the floor underneath is noticeably different in color. If you remove the rug and expose the entire floor to the same amount of light, it will even out over time and become uniform in color.