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Care and Maintenance

Keep in mind, like any floor covering, hardwood floors will show signs of wear over time. By observing a few precautions and setting up a regular cleaning routine/maintenance program, you can expect years of beauty from your floor. The following are examples of the simple and necessary maintenance you should perform to help keep your floors looking great.

- ❖ Dirt, grit and sand act like sandpaper to scratch, dent and dull hardwood floors. You should place floor mats at exterior entrances to trap dirt.
- ❖ Avoid walking on floor with high heels or spiked shoes.
- ❖ Sweep, vacuum or dust mop at least weekly since built-up grit can damage the surface of the wood. The vacuum head should be a soft brush or felt type to avoid scratching. Be certain the wheels of the vacuum are clean and that they roll softly so that they do not damage the finish. DO NOT USE A VACUUM WITH A BEATER BAR HEAD.
- ❖ Use area rugs in high traffic areas and pivot points (e.g., stair landings, room entries, etc.), especially if you have a large family or indoor pets.
- ❖ Rubber backed rugs are not recommended as discoloration may occur due to plasticizers migrating out of some rug backings. Instead, rubber liners/pads that are made especially for rugs over hardwood floors are recommended. These liners also have holes in them for the wood to breathe and can be found at your local home improvement and some hardwood flooring stores.
- ❖ Remove all spills promptly using a soft cloth and recommended cleaning products. Any spills with acidic properties like pet urine, soda, etc. should especially be cleaned as soon as possible. Long periods of time uncleansed will likely damage your floor.
- ❖ NEVER drench-mop, wet-mop, or flood your floor with water or other products. This can severely damage the flooring and will void the warranties. The use of a Swiffer® or other similar product that is lightly dampened is highly recommended. Do not use hardwood floor cleaning machines.
- ❖ Use approved maintenance and floor-care products from companies such as, but not limited to, Woca and Bona for your oil or lacquer finished floors (contact your local retailer or ADM Flooring Inc. at (888) 729-6781 / info@ADMFlooringDesign.com to discuss which product best suits your need).
- ❖ Keep pets' nails trimmed, and paws clean and free of dirt, gravel, grease, oil, and stains, etc.
- ❖ Place protective pads beneath furniture legs and feet to reduce scratches and dents.



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- ❖ Use a dolly and protective sheets of plywood when moving heavy objects, furniture or appliances.
- ❖ Make certain furniture casters are clean and operate properly (a minimum 1" width is recommended).
- ❖ Exposure to the sun and its UV rays accelerates the oxidation and aging of wood and fabrics. This causes the stain and/or wood to fade and change color. We recommend closing curtains and blinds or adding sheer drapes to protect the floor from intense and direct sunlight. Rearrange rugs and furniture periodically so that the floor ages evenly. The warranty does not cover damage from the sun and its UV rays.

Don'ts

- Use oil based soaps.
- Use paste wax based products (NEVER wax a lacquered finished floor).
- Drag sharp wooden legs or metal furniture legs as it can scratch/dent hardwood floors.
- Expose to direct sunlight for extended period of time as it may dry/fade natural wood.
- Use steam cleaners. They are not recommended for use on natural wood flooring.
- Place porous flower pots or vases on the floor.
- Use steel wool or scourers.
- Move heavy furniture without protecting wood flooring by slipping a piece of cloth or pile under the legs or bottom of items.
- Ever wet-mop a wood floor. Standing water can dull a finish, damage the wood and leave a discoloring residue.

IMPORTANT

- ❖ Do NOT wash or scrub the flooring for at least 5 days after the installation. This will allow the planks to become "seated" in the adhesive and prevent excess moisture and cleaning agents from interfering with the adhesive bond.
- ❖ Do not use oil soaps, liquid or paste wax products or other household cleaners that contain lemon oil, tung oil, silicon or ammonia since the warranty will not cover damage



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caused by non-recommended products. Use of these and other such products will harm the long-term performance of your floor and may also affect its recoat ability.

- ❖ Apply a new coat of WOCA Maintenance Oil (or similar) to your oil finished floors shortly after installation, this will help protect from over-drying and potential damages. Reconditioning an oil finished floor thereafter is recommended every 8-16 months or as needed; a sealer may be used in an effort to reduce upkeep. Please confer with your licensed installer about options.

SEASONAL GAPS

- ❖ Seasonal gapping can be expected, especially on wider planks. This is normal and not a defect. Throughout its life, wood will naturally expand and contract in response to the wet & dry seasons and also from the environmental conditions in the home. To keep these dimensional changes to a minimum, maintain the home temperature at 60° to 80°F & relative humidity within the range of 30%-50%.

SURFACE CHECKS

During the winter months of low humidity, minor surface cracks (checks) may appear in wood flooring, then often close up again in the summer months when the humidity is higher. This is a normal characteristic of natural wood and not a basis of a complaint against the manufacturer, especially if there is no structural failure.

By following these few simple guidelines today, you can enjoy your new ADM Flooring for years to come and minimize the need for repair and refinishing tomorrow!