

How do I care for my wood floors?



▲ Maintenance do's and don'ts

Wood floor maintenance is quick and easy. Routine cleaning involves sweeping, dust mopping, or vacuuming using the bare floor setting to remove dust and dirt. Clean spills immediately with a dry or slightly damp cloth. Don't use wet mops or steam mops, which will damage the finish or even the wood over long periods of time.

To avoid scratches, place breathable throw rugs at all entrances, put floor protector pads on the bottoms of the legs of any furniture that comes into direct contact with your floors, and avoid walking on the floors with sports cleats or high-heel shoes.

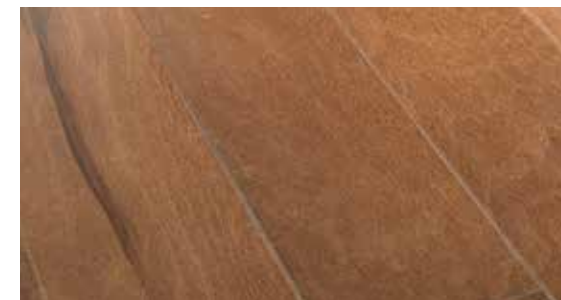
When the floor begins to look a little dull, use a wood floor cleaner recommended by your installer to maintain finish. Use the product as directed, and only use products recommended by your contractor, flooring manufacturer, or finish manufacturer. Using the wrong type of cleaning product could damage the finish, and possibly the wood.



*Mohawk American Designer series:
Burnished Caramel*

▲ Wood is natural, care includes moisture management

Wood is a natural product that responds to its environment. It is a hygroscopic material, which means that it will lose or gain moisture until it is in equilibrium with the air surrounding it. In dry conditions, such as during winter months when heating systems are in use, wood floors will shrink, which will result in gaps between floor boards. In wet conditions, such as during summer months when humidity is higher, wood floors will swell. This is a normal reaction of wood floors that will occur from season to season. You can minimize these changes in your wood floor by maintaining your home between 60-80 degrees Fahrenheit and 30-50 percent humidity year-round.





Mohawk
Timberline
Oak series:
Oxford Oak

▲ Kids, dogs, and cats, oh my!

Today's wood floors are designed to withstand the traffic of busy family life. For pets in particular, you can minimize scratches by putting breathable rugs at all doors to minimize dirt and debris being tracked in from outdoors. You also should trim their nails regularly, but need to understand that scratches can and will happen with pets. When scratches do occur, they most likely will be in the floor surface only, and are easy to repair.



Mannington Mercado Oak: Silver



Bona DriFast Stain Collection, Red Mahogany on Red Oak with Walnut inlay

▲ Troubleshooting and repair

Over time, you may experience subtle changes in your wood floors that you are not sure how to repair. These changes can include things like squeaks, gaps that don't close with seasonal changes, pet stains, or finish wear in high-traffic areas. These issues can usually be repaired by a certified wood flooring professional. You can find one in your area at <http://woodfloors.org/find-a-professional-2.aspx>.



▲ Recommended maintenance schedule

These maintenance recommendations are provided as a general guideline. Your personal maintenance requirements will vary depending on the wear and tear on your floors. You may need to perform maintenance more frequently, or less frequently, depending on your lifestyle.

Daily

sweep or dust mop.

Weekly

vacuum using the bare floor setting.

Monthly

clean with recommended wood flooring cleaner.

Every 3-5 years or as needed

maintenance coat.

Every few decades or as needed

sand and refinish.

Tools & Resources

Whether you are installing new wood floors, or want to refinish wood floors that have been in your home for many years, you have many resources available to help you with your decision-making.

Examine what new floors might look like in your home by visiting <http://www.woodfloors.org/design-room.aspx>

Explore all the design possibilities with wood floors on Pinterest by visiting <http://www.pinterest.com/nwfa>

Evaluate the skills of wood flooring artists worldwide at <http://www.hardwoodfloorsmag.com/photo-gallery>

Engage with a certified wood flooring professional near you at <http://www.woodfloors.org/find-a-professional-2.aspx>

Find the wood flooring companies and products you need at <http://www.hardwoodfloorsmag.com/resourcebook>