

10 Tips for the Care & Cleaning of Your Hardwood Floors

The hardwood floors in your home are beautiful and will enhance your living experience. However, they require some specialized care to remain beautiful and to keep from showing wear and tear. Please take note of the following tips to avoid damage and need of repair:

1. **Use floor mats and area rugs.** Tiny particles, like dirt, can act like sandpaper and scratch the wood. By placing a floor mat at each entryway the majority of dirt and grime will remain on the mat. Use carpet runners and area rugs in high traffic areas (use those made especially for hardwood floors) and be sure to shake them out regularly.
 2. **Sweep** wood floors often with a soft, fine bristle broom.
 3. **Vacuum** once or twice a week to remove dirt and sand. Use a soft brush attachment to minimize scratching. **Vacuum area rugs and runners** often so dirt doesn't filter down through the weave and scratch the wood underneath.
 4. **Get rid of water right away!** Since water is one of a wood floors worst enemies, remove wet spills ASAP with soft towels or a wet/dry vacuum, then dry thoroughly. Use a floor mat or rug in any area where water could be splashed — like near the kitchen sink to hinder any possible water damage.
 5. Use a very **dry damp mop** when mopping since excess water can seep into seams and ruin a wood floor.
 6. **Remove your shoes.** As much as possible, especially do not wear heavy shoes or high heels on hardwood floors, as some heels can cause dents.
 7. **Never drag furniture** or other objects across a wood floor. Instead, clean the floor thoroughly to remove dust and grit, then use "gliding" furniture pads underneath the piece to aid sliding it across the floor.
 8. **Use furniture pads** to place under table and chair legs and on the feet of dressers and armoires. They can be purchased at a local hardware store or home center.
 9. **Use neutral cleaners especially made for hardwood floors.** You can always damp mop with white vinegar and water (1 cup vinegar to 1 gallon water) or use Glitza Clean, Bona Clean or any other NUETRAL Swedish approved floor cleaning product. Swedish approved products can be purchased at [Intermountain Wood Products](#), 300 S Adkins Way in Meridian; [Ottley Floor Company](#), 280 E Corporate Dr in Meridian; [Don Aslett's Cleaning Center](#), SE Corner of Maple Grove and Overland Rd in Boise or [Waxie Sanitary Supply](#), 2240 S Cole Rd #110, Boise.
- NEVER use Murphy's Oil Soap, Pledge, Mop & Glo or any other products containing wax or oils.** The rule of thumb is: If you can buy it at the grocery store, Fred Meyer, Walmart, Winco etc, it is not an acceptable cleaner.
10. **Don't try to repair damage without getting professional advice.** Please call us for help and we will refer you to a professional that can advise you.