



TULIP HARDWOOD FLOORS

Cleaning Your Hardwood Floors

To maintain the appearance and functionality of your hardwood floor, proper care is essential. Thanks to today's modern finishes, caring for hardwood flooring is easier than ever. Keeping the following guidelines and recommendations in mind will help ensure that your floor ages beautifully.

Vacuum your floors instead of sweeping

Vacuum your floors as part of a regular weekly routine, as well as after any event that has left dirt behind. Gravel and dirt of any kind have the potential to damage the floor if not removed properly and promptly. Vacuuming, with a floor attachment rather than a beater bar, is preferred to sweeping because it not only addresses the surface of the floor but pulls particulates from between the planks. To minimize the amount of dirt and grime on your floors, place mats outside and inside of all exterior doors, and provide a shoe removal area.

Use a damp cloth for sticky messes

The occasional spill should be cleaned up immediately with a dry cloth. A damp cloth may be used for a stickier mess, but the area should be dried afterwards. Never pour water directly on the floor or use it to mop the floors as wet mopping and excessive water will damage the flooring. String and sponge mops should not be used as they hold a lot of water.

Deep-clean every month

For deeper cleaning, use a NWFA approved wood cleaner on a monthly basis. Avoid using household cleaning products, and never use oil soaps or wax.

- **Spills**
Immediately wipe up any spills or spots with a damp cloth.
- **Vacuum**
Vacuum or sweep at least every other week, depending on the foot traffic, don't let dirt or sand build up.
- **Repairs**
Consult your flooring professional immediately to fix areas that have been damaged, gouged, or have a difficult problem - like chewing gum.
- **Moving**
When moving heavy furniture or appliances, place a sheet of plywood or Masonite under-neat the furniture to avoid scratches or gouges.
- **Monthly**
Clean with a NWFA approved wood floor cleaner. Never use oil soaps, wax or automated cleaning machines such as steam mops.
- **Be Aware**
Of high heel shoes that have lost their protective cap and small stones as they can scratch and gouge your floor's surface. Excessive sun-light should be blocked with blinds or drapes. Wet mopping and excessive water is also harmful to your floor.
- **Protect**
In areas of high traffic, use area rugs to keep wear to a minimum. Be sure to move the rugs periodically to maintain an even color to your finish. Ensure the rugs have a breathable backing with a mesh grid pattern which allows the floor to breathe and are approved for hard-wood floor finishes. Put mats at all entrances to keep dirt and moisture off the floor. Use felt pads, wide vinyl pads or rubber rollers on the legs of furniture.

Caring for your hardwood floor is easier than ever, thanks to today's modern finishes. Just follow these simple seven guidelines and consult your flooring professional for his or her recommendations.