



*Out of this world flooring at down-to-earth prices*

# WOOD FLOOR CARE & MAINTENANCE

Wood floors are beautiful, unique, and with the proper care and common sense will last for generations. Most wood flooring problems occur due to abrasive material scratching the finish, excessive water or moisture exposure, or subjecting the wood to an extremely dry environment. The following suggestions will help take the guesswork out of proper maintenance. Wear-and-tear and frequency of maintenance is purely a function of lifestyle, but you'll never "walk through" a wood floor. Even the softest and least durable woods last for centuries.

## **Preventive Maintenance**

- Place walk-off mats at all entryways to keep abrasive dirt and grit, and moisture from being tracked in. Area rugs can prevent further tracking. Do not use rubber, foam back, or plastic mats as they may discolor the floor over time.
- Use felt pad protectors for furniture to prevent scratches. Replace when worn or gritty. Heavy furniture and appliances should be supported by wide-bearing non-staining glides or rubber casters.
- Maintain comfortable relative humidity levels of 35%-60 %.
- Place area rugs or runners in high or concentrated traffic areas. Use mats or rugs near sinks or dishwashers to avoid excess moisture.
- Pet's nails should be clipped and maintained to prevent scratches.
- High heel shoes should be in good repair. Stiletto heels or the exposed metal post of any high heel shoe will exert between 2000 - 8000 lbs. / sq. inch and will damage most any flooring surface.
- Strong sunlight exposure will change the patina of most woods over time. Reduce sunlight during peak hours to reduce color change.

## **Do's**

- Wipe spills promptly with a damp well-wrung cloth before they become sticky or dry.
- Dry dust mop and vacuum regularly as needed to keep your floor free from abrasive dirt and grit. Vinegar and water is fine for non-chemical occasional damp mopping. For hard to clean spots and spills you can use *Bona Kemi's Hardwood Floor Cleaner* or equal. Follow directions on the bottle.
- Move heavy appliances or furniture by sliding them on a large piece of clean upside down carpet. For excessively heavy objects, place on a pad of Masonite or plywood between the weight and the carpet.

## **Don'ts**

- Do not allow water to stand on your floor at any time or "swab the deck" when cleaning. Excessive water will damage your wood floor.
- Do not use oil soap, paste wax, silicone-based polishes, ammonia, chlorine bleach, or any abrasive cleaners or applicators (like steel wool) that might scratch or react with the floor finish. Do not use any cleaner that builds a residue on the floor.