Refinish My Floors, LLC

A beautiful hardwood floor is an investment in your home's elegance and value. With proper care, your floors can last a lifetime.

Caring for Your Hardwood Floors



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Caring for Your Wood Floor

Since the overwhelming majority of wood floors are composed of solid hardwood, this care guide applies specifically to this type of flooring.

Properly finished wood is the easiest of all floor surfaces to keep clean and looking like new, year after year, with only minimal care.

How minimal? Vacuum and/or dust mop weekly or more often if merited. Vacuuming is the best way to remove surface dust and dirt before it gets walked into the finish and dulls its luster. Vacuuming also pulls accumulated dust from the grooves of factory-finished and plank floors.

Some wood floor care guidelines will depend on the type of floor finish. However, there are a number of preventive maintenance tips that are the first steps in caring for your wood floors, regardless of the finish type.

First and foremost, wood and water don't mix. No matter what finish your wood floor has, never pour water on your floor. While a slightly dampened mop may be used on polyurethane and other surface finishes in good condition, even small amounts of water can cause the deterioration of finishes and warp the underlying wood.

Also, when using any maintenance product, please read the label. Always follow label directions for maintenance products, except for directions which call for using water on wood. Always use only products specifically designed for wood floors. Contact your local wood flooring distributor for products and specific cleaning recommendations.

Questions about your floors?

Call or text Erlin at **(240) 277-5953**, email **refinishmyfloors@gmail.com**, or visit **refinishmywoodflooring.com**. We're happy to help you choose the right care products for your finish.

Preventive Maintenance

You can keep your car running better and longer when you regularly change your oil, check your tire pressure, and keep your radiator filled with antifreeze. Your wood floors benefit from preventive maintenance just as much as your car does. The following are some maintenance tips for keeping your floors looking great for years and years.

- **Stop grit at the door.** Dirt and grit act just like sandpaper on any floor. To keep grit from entering your home, use dirt-trapping, walk-off mats at all exterior doors. Placing throw-rugs or small sections of carpet just inside the entrances also helps. Always remember to keep door mats clean.
- **Vacuum regularly,** as often as you vacuum carpets; a brush attachment works beautifully. Don't use the beater bar; it can damage the finish. Sweep or use an untreated dust mop daily or as needed, but do not use a household dust treatment, as this may cause your floor to become slick, dull the finish, or interfere with re-coating. Please be aware that vacuum wheels may scratch the surface.
- **Check before using a micro fiber pad.** Ask the flooring manufacturer first. The micro fibers may catch wood fibers and lift a splinter or cause a tear, exposing unfinished wood.
- **Let the finish fully cure** (7 to 90 days, depending on the type of finish) before placing any rugs, rug pads, etc. on the floor, to keep from affecting the finish and leaving a prominent "rug print."
- **Use a rug pad** with any rug placed on your wood floor. (Note: kitchen mats are the exception to this rule.) For rug pads, choose 100% non-solvent-based waffle-type rubber, an untreated natural fiber such as wool or jute, or ¼″ chopped urethane. Do not use sticky or tacky backers. The plasticizers they use can attack and discolor your finish. These same plasticizers may also be present in the backer of some rugs.
- **Use area rugs in kitchens** at high spill locations and at work stations: stove, sink, and refrigerator. Cotton is generally the best fabric since it is easily washed.
- **Manage sunlight.** Some finishes and certain chemicals in wood are affected by ultraviolet light and heat, causing the wood and some finishes to change color, develop a patina, or age. To avoid an uneven appearance, move area rugs occasionally and drape or shade large windows.
- **Wipe up spills promptly** with a dry cloth or paper towel. Use a slightly moistened cloth for sticky spills if necessary, but be sure to wipe the floor dry with another cloth.
- **Watch your heels.** Keep heels on shoes in good repair, especially high heels. That also includes most boots with heels, such as cowboy boots. Heels worn away, exposing steel support rods or nails, will dent and scratch any floor surface, even concrete or steel.
- **Protect against pets.** Pets need a rug for drool and wet coats. Be sure to keep all toys, bones, etc. that have hard corners away from the floor. Also, be sure to trim your pet's nails regularly to avoid deep scratches.
- **Put felt glides on furniture legs;** they allow furniture to be moved easily without scuffing the floor. Periodically clean glides since grit can become embedded in the fabric. Replace when the glides show wear (typically 6 to 12 months depending on use). Avoid casters made of hard materials like metals or hard plastics. If casters are necessary, use gray, non-marking rubber casters.
- **Mind wheeled furniture.** Older furniture with wooden or metal wheels can severely damage wood floors when moved. To avoid damage, place a felt-bottomed coaster under each wheel, allowing the piece to slide, rather than roll, when moved.

Beyond these preventive maintenance tips, your floors will likely need additional care. Before determining what steps to take, first identify your floor's finish. We're glad to help.

Care recommendations adapted from the NOFMA (The Wood Flooring Manufacturers Association) Wood Floor Care Guide.