

CARING FOR ENGINEERED WOOD FLOORING

A helpful guide to making the most of your new flooring

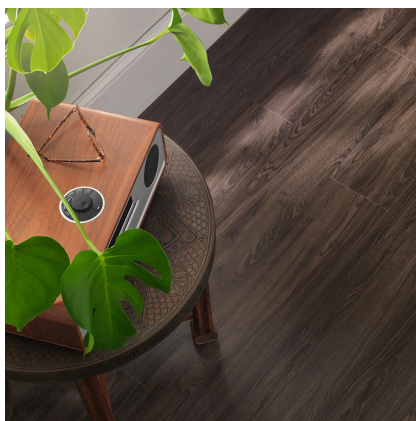
As with many other products, a certain amount of maintenance is required to keep a wood floor in good condition. With proper maintenance, your floor will retain its beauty for years to come. Light floors, are typically more sensitive to wear-and-tear than dark ones, and therefore require more frequent cleaning and maintenance. Wood floors are durable and easy to keep clean, but there are some things you need to think about.

PROTECT YOUR FLOOR

Put protective pads on furniture. Place soft pads on the bottom of table and chair legs and keep an eye that they haven't fallen off. Don't use protectors made of metal as they can wear patches and scratch the floor.

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Dry cleaning is the best way to clean wood floors, rather than wet cleaning. Vacuum and brush regularly and occasionally use a damp, well wrung-out cloth/mop. For best results, use the specified cleaner from the supplier. The floor should dry within a minute if you've used the right amount of water.



SHORT TERM CARE

Once your wood floor has been installed you'll be able to feel its delightful texture underfoot and enjoy the warm sense of nature a wood finish brings to your home. However, like all natural substances, wood is susceptible to wear and tear. To ensure it always looks its best and lasts longer, here are some steps you can take to protect it.

- 1. FLOOR MATS** The natural place to start is at the door, and a good quality floor mat will catch dirt and grit, preventing damage further into your home.
- 2. RUGS OR CARPET RUNNERS** We know that the last thing you want to do is cover up the beautiful texture of your natural wood floor, but sometimes prevention is better than the cure. Consider rugs or carpet runners for high footfall areas such as doorways, halls and stairs.
- 3. BE CAREFUL WITH FURNITURE** Never drag furniture or other objects across your wood floor - it can easily result in unsightly dents or scratches. We offer a variety of protectors that enable you to move furniture easily without marking your floor.
- 4. SHOE RULES** Avoid wearing heavy shoes or work boots when stepping onto your natural wood floor. High heels, and stilettos in particular, should be avoided. They exert a huge amount of pressure that easily dents or marks even the toughest of wood floors.
- 5. CLEAN UP SPILLS** Liquid is the enemy, so mop up any spilled drinks and never allow water or other liquids to sit for any length of time. The odd drop may not hurt, but excessive amounts of water will cause lasting damage.
- 6. PET PATROL** Nothing's more natural than a dog or cat curled up by the fire, asleep on your wood floor. But remember to keep your pet's claws trimmed to prevent scratches and as point five if there are any 'accidents' make sure they're cleaned up fast.
- 7. SUNSHINE** It's thrilling to see the sun illuminating a wood floor, filling the room with natural light and warmth. Sunlight will naturally help the wood's colour to mellow, so be aware of this and move rugs, mats and furniture regularly to ensure an even maturing of colour. Dark woods like Walnut are more susceptible to fading, which is worth considering when you choose your flooring. Excessive exposure to direct sunlight can also cause the floor to overheat, which can lead to shrinkage, warping and splitting. Consider shading your floor from large windows that face the sun.
- 8. LIGHT CLEANING** Regular sweeping with a soft bristled broom will get rid of dust and rogue bits of grit on the floor. You can also vacuum a natural wood floor - ideally with a soft brush attachment to minimise scratching.
- 9. MOPPING** As per point five, wetness can damage a wood floor so always use a well wrung mop when cleaning and removing excess liquid immediately. We offer specially formulated cleaning kits that include a gentle spray mop, Cleaning Liquid and Care Guide. They are available for both lacquered and oiled finishes, with refills available as necessary.

LONG TERM CARE

Even though the most advanced wood treatments and finishes are used to create our nature inspired flooring, your wood floor will need to be looked after to stay in tip-top condition. This involves cleaning and sometimes re-finishing your flooring at suitable intervals to ensure it continues to delight throughout its lifetime.