



Hardwood Care & Maintenance Industry Guidelines

The Floor Trader of Tacoma has put together this information as a consumer guide to general guidelines provided by most manufacturers.

Humidity is Important

Maintaining the proper humidity levels and air temperature in the job site/home is critical

Failing to maintain the correct air temperatures and humidity levels in the job site/home may damage the floor and will void all manufacturer warranties. These guidelines will help maintain the appearance and longevity of your wood flooring, cabinets, wood furniture, doors, trims, leather furniture and more. More importantly, correct moisture levels in the job site/home are essential to the health of your family.

Too much moisture inside your job site/home can promote the growth of mold, mildew, fungi, bacteria, and viruses that can cause or worsen asthma, as well as hay fever and other allergies. Too little moisture in the air can lead to dry skin, sore throats and respiratory problems.

*American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

Why proper humidity levels and air temperature are critical for wood flooring

Humidity levels in your job site/home are affected by seasonal changes. Wood flooring responds to these changes by expanding and contracting. These conditions may be noticeable. During warm, humid weather wood will expand giving the floor a crowned look. During dry, cold weather wood will shrink causing thin cracks to appear on the surface of the flooring and between each plank. Although this seasonal movement is a normal characteristic of wood flooring, these effects can be reduced by simply following these guidelines.

Acclimation

- Avoid unloading and installing the wood flooring when it is raining or abnormally humid as it will absorb unwanted moisture and can extend the acclimation period.
- Acclimate the flooring only in the room where it will be installed.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER INSTALLATION MUST BE AND MAINTAINED AT 35% - 55%. IT IS THE PURCHASER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE INSTALLATION CLIMATE MEETS THIS CRITERIA.

ANY HARDWOOD PLANKS 4.75" TO 5" WIDE MUST HAVE GLUE ASSIST AND NAILED IN PLACE.

General Maintenance

Place approved natural fiber floor rugs at every entryway to collect excessive moisture and dirt that could be tracked into the job site/home. DO NOT USE rubber backed or non-ventilated rugs. These type of rugs can trap moisture in the wood and can severely damage the floor. Use rugs that are made specifically for wood floors. Shake them out regularly. Place rugs in entryways and any area where water is in use, such as sinks or a pet's water dish.

Vacuum, dry mop, or sweep your floor at least once a week or more if needed. Do not let sand, dirt, or grit build up. It will act like sandpaper and abrade and dull the wood floor's finish. Bona Swedish Formula Hardwood Floor Cleaner applied with the Bona Micro Plus pads with the terry cloth cover is the

recommended way to clean your wood floor. The best method of removing dirt and grit is vacuuming with a soft brush attachment on your vacuum. Do not use beater brushes.

As per NWFA (National Wood Flooring Association) and wood manufacturers, the use of steam mops or wet mopping is NOT an approved cleaning method. These methods will RUIN your floor and void all manufacturer warranties.

How to Clean Your Wood Flooring

After all dirt and grit particles have been removed (using a vacuum, dry mop, or broom) lightly spray a mist of Bona Swedish Formula Hardwood Floor Cleaner over a 4' x 6' area of your wood floor or directly on the cleaning cloth. Thoroughly clean the floor surface and dry if needed. Finish one area before moving onto the next. Repeat the process until the floor is clean. When the Bona cleaning cloth becomes soiled, rinse with water, thoroughly wringing out the cloth. Once the cleaning cloth becomes excessively soiled, launder and reuse. Excessively soiled cleaning cloths will cause streaking and can scratch the floor.

Cleaning wood flooring with any type of wood polishes, Murphy's Oil Soap, furniture polishes, acidic cleaners (ammonia/bleach) will damage the wood's finish and will void any manufacturer warranties. Always follow the installation and maintenance instructions included in every box of wood flooring.

High heeled shoes and wood floors can be a bad combination, especially with softer wood species like Maple, Birch, Oak, American Walnut, or Cherry. It is a scientific fact that a woman of average weight wearing high heels exerts over 2,000 PSI (pounds per square inch) of force on the floor. This is 20 - 40 times more pressure than an elephant, almost 100 times greater than an average pickup truck. All species of wood flooring can be severely damaged by high heeled shoes.

The tips below will help avoid unwanted dents:

- Remove high heeled shoes when at job site/home
- Use area rugs where there is more traffic

Maintaining the beauty of your hardwood may be a challenge when you own pets, specifically large or hyper dogs. To help keep your wood flooring in good condition while having indoor pets you need to:

- Clip your pet's nails regularly. If you can hear the nails clicking on the floor, they need to be trimmed.
- Wipe up any pet waste/vomit as quickly as possible. These accidents are harsh and can damage the finish.
- Use natural fiber rugs or a riser to keep water bowls off the floor.