

Care and Maintenance Guidelines for Laminate Flooring:

Routine Maintenance



IMPORTANT - Laminate flooring, like all wood-based products, is hygroscopic, meaning it reacts to moisture by expanding or contracting. To maintain your flooring:

- **Before Installation:** Ensure all sources of subfloor moisture and construction dampness are addressed before installation.
- **Avoid Wetting:** Prevent water exposure; wipe up spills immediately. Never leave standing water on the floor.

Cleaning Guidelines:

- Use a **dry or lightly damp cloth** to blot up spills as soon as they occur. Never allow liquids to remain on the floor.
- For tough stains like oil, paint, ink, tar, or lipstick, use acetone or nail polish remover with a clean white cloth, then wipe with a dry or lightly damp cloth.
- Use a **dry damp sponge** mop for regular cleaning. Avoid wet mopping.
- Sweep, dust, or vacuum regularly with a hard floor attachment (avoid using the beater bar) to prevent dirt and grit from scratching or dulling the finish.
- Periodically clean with laminate-specific cleaning products.
- **Avoid using the following:**
 - Soap, water, oil-soap detergents, or other liquid cleaners.
 - Steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammonia-based or chlorine-based products.
 - Buffing or polishing machines.
 - Steam cleaners or devices that apply steam or water directly to the floor.
 - Minwax
 - Murphy's oil soap (and anything with shine agents or enhancers.)

Spot Treatment:

- For candle wax or chewing gum, apply a gel solvent or isopropyl alcohol, allow it to sit for a few minutes, and gently scrape with a plastic scraper (e.g., a credit card). Clean the area with a neutral cleaner or a dry or lightly damp cloth to remove residue.
- Homes in sandy environments, like beach houses, may require more frequent cleaning to remove dirt and grit.

General Tips:

- Promptly remove everyday household spills.
- Place walk-off mats at entrances to minimize tracked-in dirt and debris.
- Avoid using detergents, soaps, waxes, polishes, rotating beater bars, floor scrubbers, steamers, or jet mops.

Care and Maintenance Guidelines for Laminate Flooring:

Routine Maintenance (Cont.)

Environmental Protection:

- Place **entry mats** at all entrances to collect dirt, sand, oil, and other debris.
- Use approved **vinyl rug underlayments** to prevent slippage of area rugs.
- Install **floor protectors** and wide, load-bearing leg bases or rollers under heavy furniture to prevent indentations and scratches. The heavier the object, the wider the floor protector should be.
- Maintain a **relative indoor humidity** level of 35%-65% year-round to minimize expansion and contraction:
 - During the heating season, use a humidifier to prevent shrinkage from dry air.
 - During the non-heating season, use an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or occasionally turn on heating to maintain humidity levels.
- Avoid water exposure during inclement weather.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed to prevent scratches.
- Use a protective mat for furniture or chairs with castors.
- Avoid sliding heavy objects across the floor.

Minor Repairs (For minor scratches or dents):

- Use a Flooring Touch-Up or Color-Fill Kit designed to match your floor.
- When applied correctly, these kits can repair damages seamlessly, making them nearly invisible while maintaining durability under foot traffic.

By following these care and maintenance guidelines, you can extend the life and beauty of your laminate flooring.