Daily Schedule - Dust/Sweep

Giving your floors a good dusting with a microfiber mop or cloth will be your best daily defense against scratches and surface damage. Microfiber cleaning pads often use static electricity to trap dirt, particles, and other household allergens. Using a broom can be effective as well, but using a broom only pushes the dirt around. When you want to clean your floors without damaging them, avoid lifting your microfiber mop up off the floor when you clean—this way you keep the dirt trapped on the pad.

Weekly Schedule - Vacuum/Mop

Weekly maintenance will deal with the harder-to-reach areas that a daily dusting doesn't address. Vacuums and wet mops are ideal for getting dirt out of trouble areas like corners and the spaces between each piece of hardwood. However, using vacuums and mops requires extra caution when you want to clean floors without damaging them. If your vacuum has a beater bar, make sure it doesn't hit the bare floor. Also, the wheels on a vacuum can damage the floor or leave marks. When you're using a mop, remember that water and wood don't mix! Avoid using or allowing excess liquid to sit on your floor. Lightly misting your floor with a hardwood floor cleaner will be enough to give it a great clean. A gentle touch is one of the best ways to clean hardwood flooring.

Monthly Schedule - Polish

Polishing your floor every few months is a great way to renew and refresh the finish that protects your hardwood floor. With floors that have some kind of protective sealant, it is the finish that is getting the most attention when we clean—not the actual hardwood. Polishing your floor fills in microscopic scratches and evens out a floor's protective surface. Polishing a hardwood floor is not a difficult task and can be done with a minimal amount of effort.

Yearly Schedule - Deep Clean

With all the abuse we put on our hardwood floors, consider giving your floor a deep clean or a sand and refinish every 3-5 years. Sanding and refinishing your floor completely removes the old protective finish and replaces it. If your floor has some deep scratches or gouges, sanding and refinishing can repair this damage, leaving you with immaculately clean hardwood flooring.

The Best Way to Clean Hardwood Floors

When it's time to clean your floors, here are some hardwood floor cleaning tips to remember:

- Prep your floor for cleaning by sweeping or dust-mopping to get rid of large particles of dirt and debris.
- Use a pH-neutral cleaner that will be gentle on your hardwood floors.
- Use a fine spray mist to clean your floor in sections. Avoid putting too much liquid on your floors.
- Use proper tools to clean your floor – a mop paired with a machine-washable microfiber pad for dusting and cleaning. Electrostatic action attracts dirt, microparticles and common household allergens. Traditional mops can work, but they often leave excess water on your floors and can cause damage.
- Avoid using water and vinegar, soap-based cleaners, wax or steam cleaners on your hardwood floors. Vinegar and water actually dull the floor's finish over time, while soap and wax leave residue. Steam cleaners put heat and excessive water on your floor, which can lead to cupping and long-term damage. Using a specially-formulated hardwood floor cleaner is a smart way to maintain the beauty and warmth of your floors for years to come.