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HARDWOOD FLOOR CARE GUIDE

Cleaning & Maintenance for Your New Hardwood Floor

DAILY & ROUTINE CARE

- Sweep or dust mop daily using a soft microfiber mop.
- Vacuum weekly on the hard floor setting — never use a beater bar attachment.
- Place doormats at all entrances to trap dirt and grit before it reaches the floor.
- Use felt pads under all furniture legs to prevent scratches.

DAMP MOPPING

- Use a hardwood-specific cleaner — never use all-purpose or steam cleaners.
- Mop with a lightly dampened mop only — never wet mop hardwood.
- Wipe up any standing water or spills immediately to prevent warping.
- Dry the floor promptly after cleaning.

HUMIDITY & TEMPERATURE

- **Maintain indoor humidity between 35–55% year-round.**
- Use a humidifier in winter and A/C or dehumidifier in summer.
- Avoid extreme temperature changes — keep home between 60–80°F.

WHAT TO AVOID

- Steam mops or wet mopping — moisture is hardwood's biggest enemy.
- Vinegar, ammonia, or oil-based soaps — they dull and damage the finish.

✓ **TIP:** Hardwood expands and contracts with moisture. Place rugs in kitchens and bathrooms, and always wipe spills immediately to prevent warping and cupping.

STAIN & SPILL REMOVAL

- Wipe up spills immediately with a dry or slightly damp cloth.
- **Blot dry immediately; do not rub.** Water/beverages:
- **Apply a small amount of hardwood cleaner, wipe clean.** Grease/oil:
- **Rub gently with a clean cloth or tennis ball.** Scuff marks:
- **Harden with ice in a bag, then carefully scrape off.** Wax/gum:
- **Use a hardwood-safe polish remover, then clean area.** Nail polish:

LONG-TERM CARE

- Avoid walking on hardwood with high heels or cleats.
- Use area rugs in high-traffic zones for added protection.
- Recoat the finish every 3–5 years before it wears through to the wood.
- Sand and refinish when scratches or dullness can no longer be buffed out.
- Keep pet nails trimmed to minimize surface scratches.

PRODUCTS TO USE

- Bona Hardwood Floor Cleaner or similar pH-neutral hardwood cleaner.
- Dry microfiber mop or soft-bristle broom for daily cleaning.
- Hardwood-specific touch-up markers for minor surface scratches.

⚠ **AVOID:** Never use a steam mop on hardwood floors. Steam forces moisture into the wood and can cause irreversible warping, swelling, and finish damage.