



MAINTENANCE

Canadian Heritage Series

As with any floor covering material, a few moments of care and a little common sense can go a long way in keeping your Hardwood floor looking its best. Here are a few simple suggestions:

- Never clean your hardwood floor with water. Do not use any wax or cleaner that needs to be mixed with water, such as Murphy's Oil Soap – water can dull the finish and permanently damage your floor.
- Use doormats wherever your wood joins an outside doorway to keep grit and dirt from being tracked in. Grit will scratch your floor. Outside, you may want to invest in a mat for further protection. Do not use rubber mats, foam backed rugs or plastic as they may discolour the floor. Move rugs occasionally to avoid uneven colour changes of the wood due to strong light.
- Keep high heels in good repair. A person in Stiletto heels weighing 125lb exerts around 2000lb of pressure per square inch.
- Sweep or vacuum (with brush attachment only) as often as required to remove loose dirt or grit before it can scratch and damage your floor. Wipe up spills as soon as possible. Remove dried spills with a cloth dampened with wood floor cleaner. Wood and water do not mix so never wet mop a wood floor.
- Always use felt protector pads on chairs, tables, etc., and anything else that may move over your floor. Always *lift* furniture. Never drag items across the floor. When moving heavy items, place a towel or blanket underneath and slide the item gently. Proper chair rollers are available for hardwood flooring at most business/office depot stores.
- A humidifier is recommended to prevent excessive shrinkage in floors due to low humidity. Humidity levels of 37% - 45% are recommended. In damp conditions, air conditioners or de-humidifiers are recommended to decrease moisture levels. During the heating system a humidifier is normally required to keep the indoor environment above 37% RH. We recommend flow-through humidifiers attached to ductwork as the preferred method to humidify during the heating season.
- Dents, scratches, etc., are something that all wood floors are susceptible to, however a little care and maintenance can prevent most common occurrences. There are scratch removers available to help disguise regular wear and tear. Large dogs require regular nail trimming, otherwise their nails will scratch the finish or cause denting damage to the wood below the finish.

Wood will age gracefully. Most species develop a beautiful patina over the years. With proper care your floor will keep its natural and beautiful look for years.