



# Caring for Your Newly Installed or Refinished Wood Floor.

Your wood floor can last for generations if you protect it from the things that damage it. The following are examples of reasonable maintenance and care that you'll need to do to protect your new wood floor.

**Keep your floor free of dirt and grit.** Place mats\* at exterior doors and use rugs in high traffic areas. Sweep or vacuum regularly using a brush or felt type head. Be certain the vacuum's wheels are clean and do not damage the finish. Do not use a vacuum with a beater bar head designed for carpet. When vacuuming, try to make your sweeping motions in the same direction as the floor boards- that way if your vacuum drags a stone or some other sharp debris and scratches the finish it will be in the same direction as the wood grain making it less noticeable and easier to touch up.

**Use only recommended cleaners.** Wipe up food and other spills immediately using a dampened (not soaking wet) cloth or paper towel. and use only recommended cleaners (for more information see our corresponding documents).

Avoid using floor care products with oils, waxes or any that will "leave a shine" on your floor. These products are meant for old, worn floors that are in need of some amount of refinish work. Your new floor only needs a cleaner that will remove dirt and grime without leaving any residues that may make future recoating not possible.

**Protect your wood floor from dents and scratches.** Never drag furniture or roll appliances across your wood floor: use a dolly and protective sheets of plywood. Attach felt floor protectors\* to your chair legs and other pieces of furniture that will come in contact with your wood floor. Make certain furniture casters are clean, operate properly and do not dent or mark your floor.

Remove shoes with cleats, spiked or damaged heels before walking on your floor. Keeping your pets' nails trimmed will also help avoid scratches and gouges.

**Understand how your wood floor responds to moisture.** Don't use too much water when cleaning your wood floor. Excessive moisture, whether from cleaning, leaking plumbing, potted plants, a pet's water bowl or a damp basement can cause wood to swell or warp. Conversely, if your home is too dry your floor boards will contract and show gaps between them (for more details see corresponding humidity document).

Maintain a relative humidity in your home between 40% and 55%. The use of a dehumidifier in the basements of all new construction is recommended for the first year. Depending on how you heat your home and the type of floor you select, you may find it necessary to humidify your home during the heating seasons.

**Understand how your wood floor responds to sunlight.** Wood floors, like fabrics, can and do change shade over time with exposure to sunlight. While this is a natural process, you may want to protect areas consistently exposed to strong sunlight by using curtains, blinds or UV resistant film on windows and doors.

**Have a long-term maintenance plan.** Eventually your wood floor will begin to show wear and won't look as vibrant after cleaning as it did when it was new. If caught in time, a professional recoating can restore your wood floor at a fraction of the expense and inconvenience of a complete refinishing where the floor is stripped down to bare wood. We have the products and techniques to perform this service on all of the wood floors that we sell.

*\*We only recommend felt floor protection; rubber mats and other products should be avoided as they can damage the finish.*

**Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your wood floors or to order maintenance supplies or service for your wood floors.**