

Proper Care and Maintenance For Your Hardwood Floors



Congratulations on purchasing your new hardwood floor for your home or workplace. Whether you just bought the flooring because Christmas is at your house this year, or maybe you bought the flooring to spice up your business décor for the upcoming season. Whatever your motivations might be, here are some tips on the care and maintenance that will help to keep your wood floors in their prime.

It should be realized that wood is a natural product with its own natural variations of grains, colors and characteristics, which are attributed to the beauty of the project. Wood is also a living material, which reacts to change in the climate and surroundings. During summer's high humidity, the wood absorbs moisture and expands. In the winter, when the building is heated, humidity drops, the wood releases its humidity, and it shrinks and contracts.

Therefore it is necessary that the humidity in the room, wherever any hardwood flooring is installed, should be maintained at the level between **35% to 55%** by the use of humidifiers or dehumidifiers; and the room temperature should be kept between **60°F to 75°F** by heating or air-conditioning system. With the above in mind, a thermometer and hygrometer unit can be handy around the house.

Some other helpful tips to consider:

- ✓ *Keep dirt, sand, grits and water off the floor by placing outside mats in front of all entrances to your home and vacuuming regularly.*
- ✓ *Remove shoes with spiked heels before walking on the floor to prevent scratches.*
- ✓ *Keep pets' claws trimmed; paws clean and free of dirt or soil.*
- ✓ *Always apply felt pads under any furniture or chair legs to prevent scratches and to ease movement.*
- ✓ *Use rugs in high wear areas i.e. in heavily traveled spots and pivot points such as room entries and stair landings.*
- ✓ *Never flood or wet mop the floor with water or any other liquid products, this includes cleaner that are designed to clean another surface type.(ex. tile or vinyl cleaners) Severe damage may occur that void the warranty.*
- ✓ *Exposure to sunlight with its UV ray accelerates oxidation and aging of materials. This may change the color of the floor. Periodically rearrange the furniture will allow the floor to age evenly.*
- ✓ *Most importantly, know your manufacturer's warranty and follow it closely. Failure to do so will void your warranty.*