

HOW TO CLEAN REAL WOOD FLOORS

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"DO NOT...I repeat... DO NOT use vinegar on a wood floor!! I own a cleaning company and am well aware of the damage this method can cause. Vinegar is acidic and will slowly eat away at the poly coating, or wax coating, or oil, whatever your floor is sealed with. It is fine for no-wax linoleum and ceramic but don't use vinegar on wood floors! If you have new wood floors, using anything but what the manufacturer specifically recommends will void your warranty. When in doubt, use just water. I use a product called EcoMist Colloid W and a Rubbermaid commercial microfiber mop and it gets raves from my clients with wood floors."

1) **Use a soft microfiber dusting pad** (preferably with fringe) and run it along all the baseboards without lifting it. Then run it up and down the room, like mowing the lawn, again not lifting the mop. Lifting the mop allows larger debris to get under the mop pad, which can scratch the floors. You want the larger debris to be trapped by the fringe and pushed ahead of you while dust and dirt is trapped by the microfiber pad. This is why swiffer is horrible...it can scratch!

2) **Use the hose attachment** on your vacuum to run the perimeter of the room and suck up any trapped dirt near the baseboards.

3) **Using a spray bottle**, mist the floor lightly with water, or a cleaner specifically formulated for wood floors like **EcoMist Colloid W**, **Dr. Bonners**, or **Method**. (or what the client has specifically supplied.) DO NOT use Murphy's Oil Soap on your floors, nor should you use Orange Glo. Murphy's Oil Soap will ruin the floors and Orange Glo makes them dangerously slippery. Again, when in doubt, just use water.

4) **After lightly misting** a small area, use a separate microfiber pad that is labeled for wet use and mop the area following the grain of the wood.

5) **Continue to spray as you go**. The floor should dry behind you. Never dump a bucket of soapy water on a wood floor...it will warp, cup, split, and generally need replacing really quickly.

How Often Should I Clean?

This varies, depending on your household and the square footage of your wood floors. Kids, pets and environment all contribute to wear on your floor.. Keeping your floor free from dirt and dust helps prevents scuffs and scratches. A clean floor is a longer lasting floor.

Advanced Tips

- 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.
- 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.
- Regular dusting and cleaning keeps hardwood floors looking new. But protective mats can further your floor's life. Use natural rubber rug underlayments with a waffle pattern in entry ways or high traffic areas, and use felt floor protectors on furniture.
- Depending on the amount of traffic in your home, we recommend polishing the floors every 2-3 months and sanding and refinishing approximately every 3-5 years.

If you have more concerns please don't hesitate to call here

(516)828-1324

Thank you

Have a great day