

When you love your hard floor, it'll surely return the favour! Be it fabulous hardwood floor, practical laminate or solid natural stone surface, when you take necessary steps and precautions you'll be able to enjoy it for a long time. Each type of hard flooring is durable and provides your home with numerous benefits. What's more, it's easy to keep clean and requires little maintenance, unlike carpets and rugs.

Hardwood Flooring

Hardwood flooring is an excellent addition to your home interior. For a long time it has been used only by wealthy people, but today it becomes ever more available to people with more restricted budgets. It endures well foot traffic and gets a nice used look over time. However, it doesn't mean time doesn't take its toll over time. Fortunately, there are some **tips and tricks to preserve its good** looks for longer.



Place a Mat



Small particles like soil and sand act a sandpaper and scratch the surface. But, if you **place floor mats** at every entryway and ask family members and home guests to wipe their feet or leave their shoes at the door, significant part of the dirt and grime will stay on the mat. You can even place a mat over any area where water could be spilled – like around the sink in the kitchen. You'll be a step in front of the accident, stopping any possible damage.

Play Favourite Tune

Play a set of favourite songs while you keep the hardwood floor in your home clean. **The more care you take, the longer you'll be able to maintain and enjoy its original appeal.** In order of

importance your first step is to buy a quality broom so you can keep dust, dirt and other particles at bay. Next comes a good quality vacuum cleaner. Avoid using the beater bar to get into hard to reach areas. When applying cleaning solutions, use only those recommended by flooring retailers or manufacturers.

Do and Don'ts

Do minimise water exposure and tend to spills immediately

Do remove sticky spots using a damp towel or sponge

Do apply professional hardwood floor cleaner when removing heel and scuff marks

Do avoid using cleaners that leave a film or residue

Don't use excessive amounts of water when cleaning your wood floor

Don't apply urethane finish

Don't use ammonia and oil soaps

Protect Your Investment

It's natural for hardwood floors to fade and change shades over time. However, excessive exposure to

direct sunlight may significantly speed up the process and cause irreparable damage. Window treatments are excellent solution to this issue. We recommend to rotate area rugs and furniture often to allow for wood floors to age evenly. Be careful when moving heavy pieces of furniture across to avoid scratching. Cover furnishings legs with protectors. Pet's nails and high heels are two more things that don't match with wood flooring.

Laminate Flooring

Only Sweeping & Mopping

Dirt and dust seriously dull laminate's appearance. It can be avoided by **regular sweeping, vacuuming loose dirt and grime and mopping**. A good vacuum cleaner or high-quality broom will do the trick. However, avoid using beater bar. Occasionally damp mop but have in mind that laminate flooring do expand when it's flooded. After a damp mopping use a clean, dry cloth/towel to dry the surface. Collect excessive moisture and dirt by placing doormats at each entryway.



Dos and Don'ts

Do deep cleaning and treat spots with manufacturer's recommended detergents.

Do lift heavy furnishings instead of dragging or pulling to avoid scratching.

Do put carpet fragments face down under objects when moving across laminate surfaces.

Do place floor protectors on furniture legs to avoid scratching and abrasion.

Don't sand or refinish a laminate floor.

Don't clean with soap-based and “mop-and-shine” products.

Don't use steel wool, scouring powder or other abrasive aids and cleaners.

Vinyl Flooring

Is It That Hard?



Surprisingly, **it's not so difficult when you know the right techniques**. Sweep or vacuum regularly as dust, grit and sand are vinyl's worst enemies. As with all hard floor surfaces avoid using beater bar when vacuuming.

Otherwise you risk scratching the surface. If sweeping can doesn't eliminate dirt, use a mop with clean water. When floors still retain dirt, use cleaning products recommended by manufacturers.

Use “no-rinse” cleaners or ammonia. Dilute in a gallon of water. When finished rinse the floor well. Avoid using detergents, scouring powders and abrasive aids. Adding mats and rugs in front of entry points around

your home will greatly reduce the amount of grit and dirt reaching your vinyl floors.

It's Just a Spill



It's good to remember that a spill is never ***just a spill***. The quicker it's cleaned, the better. Otherwise, you risk being left with a permanent stain, even the harshest cleaners won't be able to shift. Wipe or scrape any spill immediately.

Ceramic Tile Flooring

Sweep, Sweep, Sweep

If you enjoy ceramic tiles in your home then **get ready to sweep** a lot. Not that you'll have to do it every day, but because it'll be your primary mean to deal with dirt. Though dirt adheres easily to tiles, especially to those with textured surfaces, working out with the broom in the morning will loosens and remove dirt in no time. You also can use a vacuum cleaner but without the beater bar. Otherwise, you risk dulling and scratching the tiles.



Embrace Mats

The importance and **usefulness of mats** in restricting the amount of dirt entering in your home can't be stressed enough. A mat at the entrance door will reduce the wear of the surface. Occasionally shake it outside to remove trapped in dirt, dust and soil.

Mopping

Use only manufacturer-recommended grout and tile cleaning products. If faced dealing with heavier stains, spot clean the area with clean sponge applying same recommended cleaners.

Deep Cleaning



Use soft brush to clean the surface. If you apply any detergent whatsoever, rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove any leftover residue. Then wipe with a clean, dry cloth/towel to remove any film. Consult with cleaning product's instructions to ensure the cleaner is suitable for your type of tile. When done cleaning, rinse well and wipe dry for a sparkling look.

Dos and Don'ts

Do know that while tiles are durable, they are not indestructible and do chip and crack under extreme pressure.

Do tend to spills as quickly as possible. Otherwise, grout might get stained.

Do place protectors under furniture legs to guard against scratching.

Do be careful when moving heavy objects across ceramic tiles.

Don't use abrasive cleaning products like steel wool and scouring powders.

Don't clean with ammonia-based unless you want to discolour your grout.

Stone Flooring

Being Your Own Worst Enemy

Though stone surfaces are hard and durable, they too have their own nemesis. Surprisingly, it's its own enemy. Grit, sand and dirt can cause damage to natural stone because they are abrasive. **Use your vacuum cleaner** to remove damaging particles from your stone floors. However, avoid using the beater bar as its bristles can scratch the surface. **Sweeping or mopping** work just fine as well.



Be One Step Ahead

Don't wait for dirt and soil to enter inside your home. **Be proactive and stop it at the front door** by placing walk-off **mats** outside and **area rugs** – inside. Thus abrasive particles won't reach your magnificent flooring. To avoid accidents choose a mat or rug with a non-slip surface.

It Always Can Be Cleaner



When you **damp mop** your stone floor use recommended cleaners meant specifically for such surface. **Avoid using products** containing lemon juice, vinegar and other acids on marble, limestone or travertine. Don't use **abrasive or ammonia-based** cleaners as well. All of these products will dull the floor's shine. Use mild-bleach solution to remove algae and moss from stone in outdoor areas. Remove spills immediately. If you want to use a cleaning product, use soap instead of detergent. Liquid Ivory or Castile soap specifically. Though put too much of it and it will leave a film or streaks on your stone floor. Thus change water frequently and rinse thoroughly in the end.