



**MERIDIAN**  
ELEVATED ESSENTIALS

## Hardwood Maintenance Guidelines

### Routine Hardwood Cleaning Do's

- Use a soft cloth to blot spills and spots as soon as they happen. Always avoid allowing liquids to stand on your hardwood floor.
- Sweep, dust or vacuum the floor regularly. If vacuuming, use a hard floor attachment to avoid scratching or dulling your floor's finish.
- Clean the floor with Hard Surfaces Flooring Cleaner, specially formulated to wipe away dirt and soil without damaging your floor's finish.
- Keep hardwood flooring cleaner or household vinegar on-hand for light mopping.

### Don'ts

- Don't use oil-based, wax, polish or strong ammoniated products, which can dull your floor's finish.
- Don't use steel wool, scouring powders or other abrasive cleaners, which can scratch or damage your floor's finish.
- Don't wash or wet-mop the floor with soap, water, oil-soap detergent, or any other liquid cleaning material. This could cause swelling, warping, delamination and joint-line separation, and void the warranty.
- Don't use any type of buffing machine or steam mop.
- Don't install hardwood without allowing the planks to acclimate.
- Don't allow spills to rest on the hardwood floor for long periods of time.

### Specialty Hardwood Cleaning

- Remove sticky substances, such as candle wax or chewing gum, by applying ice to harden the substance and then gently scraping with a plastic scraper. (Tip: A credit card makes a good substitute.) Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.

- Vacuum or sweep your hardwood floor to remove dirt and dust. Use a vacuum or hard-floor vacuum attachment without a rotary brush head or moving parts, as these could scratch or damage your floor.
- Use a Hard Surface Cleaner to remove dirt or other residue. Apply Hardwood Flooring Cleaner directly to the dry flooring mop, not the hardwood floor. Use a back and forth motion with the mop on the hardwood. When the mop becomes soiled, simply replace it with a clean one. Cleaning the hardwood floor with a soiled cover could cause streaking. The covers are generally re-usable, so simply throw the cover in the wash and dry as you would with any towel.
- For set pet waste stains, use a clean cloth to dab a small amount of hydrogen peroxide on the stain.
- For larger set stains, talk to your Meridian retailer about replacing the damaged floor area.

### **Protective Hardwood Floor Care**

- Use entry mats, which will help collect the dirt, sand, grit and other substances such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer that can be tracked onto your hardwood flooring. To prevent slipping, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment. (Tip: Don't use rubber- or foam-backed plastic mats, as they may discolor the flooring.)
- Use floor protectors and wide-load-bearing leg bases or rollers to minimize indentations and scratches from heavy objects. (Tip: As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector should be.)

### **Preventative Hardwood Floor Care**

- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35% and 55% throughout the year to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of wood. Follow these tips for winter and summer months:
  - Heating Season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood-stove and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
  - Non-Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier or periodically turning on your heating system can maintain humidity during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
- Use care with sharp objects.

- Remove shoes with spiked or damaged heels before walking on your hardwood floor; they can leave scratches or indentations in hardwood.
- Trim pets' nails regularly.
- Rearrange your rugs and furniture periodically to allow the flooring to age evenly.
- Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight, which can soften the tone of different species of hardwood to varying degrees and accelerate the oxidation and aging of wood.
- Protect the floor when moving by using a dolly to lift heavy furniture or appliances. Never try to slide or roll heavy objects across your hardwood floor.
- Promptly remove spills using hardwood flooring cleaner and a clean cloth.
- Clean under interior area rugs and mats regularly, as soil underneath them will have an abrasive effect on the floor finish.