

Care and Maintenance for greenearthTM Engineered Hardwood

1. Use products that are free from toxic chemicals.
2. Scuff and heel marks can be removed with a recommended hardwood floor cleaner and light rubbing with a clean cloth.
3. Do not use oil soaps or ammonia solutions, as these will dull your floor's finish and make refinishing difficult.
4. If your urethane finish starts to show wear, you can easily recoat it. Lightly sand the surface, and then apply the finish.
5. Wax finishes should never be cleaned with a water-based cleaner. Consult the finish manufacturer about what cleaner to use. Generally this will be a solvent-based cleaner.
6. If the wax finish on your hardwood floor begins to dull, clean and then buff the floor. Additional wax should only be applied in very high traffic areas to avoid over-waxing.
7. White spots resulting from water spills may be cleaned with fine steel wool and mineral spirits. Use a small amount of spirits and gently rub at the spot with the steel wool until the spot disappears. Then re-wax and buff the area on the hardwood floor.
8. When vacuuming the hardwood floor, avoid using a vacuum with a beater bar. Instead, use a vacuum with a brush or felt head.
9. Place mats at all outside entrances to capture excess dust and dirt before it enters the house. Be sure to frequently shake out, vacuum, or wash any mats or area rugs. In order to let the floor cure, avoid laying down rugs or mats for the first three weeks.
10. Apply floor protector pads to the bottoms of furniture legs. Keep them clean of any dirt or grit and periodically replace them with new ones.
11. Never use a non-ventilated or rubber-backed mat on hardwood floors.
12. To keep dust and dirt from damaging your finish, be sure to dust mop, vacuum, or sweep your hardwood floors regularly. Walking over a dirty or dusty floor will damage the finish.
13. Consider purchasing a humidifier or dehumidifier to use in your home, especially if you live in a climate where the humidity frequently fluctuates. This will keep your hardwood floors at the appropriate moisture level to minimize cracking between the planks.
14. Clean up liquid spills immediately. Spills left sitting can leak between the boards and damage your hardwood floors, warping the wood and potentially leading to mold beneath the floor.
15. When mopping the floor, apply floor cleaner directly to the mop until lightly damp. Do not pour cleaner onto your hardwood floor. It's a good idea to use a swivel-head mop with a terry cloth cover to avoid scraping your hardwood flooring.
16. Never wax over a urethane finish, and avoid using cleaners that will leave behind a residue.
17. If you're installing hardwood flooring in your kitchen, place area rugs in front of the sink and stove to prevent excess wear and catch liquid splashes and spills. Vacuum and shake out the rugs when needed to keep them clean.
18. Always use manufacturer-recommended hardwood floor cleaners. If you use the wrong type of cleaner, you risk voiding your warranty.
19. Be aware of what type of finish your hardwood flooring has, because that will determine what you use to clean it.
20. Protect your hardwood floors from direct sunlight, as this can fade your floors over time. Frequently move rugs and furniture, and hang window treatments to limit direct sunlight exposure.