

How to Care for Your Floors

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The following are general care practices. Please see your manufacturer's instructions.

Use walk-off mats inside and out. They should be big enough to get two steps on each side of door. Clean/hose off/vacuum/wash regularly.

Hardwood

Water is Hardwood's biggest Enemy. All water should be removed from hardwood immediately. And remember that water can come from below too.

Keep floor generally clean from soil, sand and debris. The average piece of sand has 23 sharp edges that act as knives cutting their way across your floor.

A damp rag or mop with water only works great for typical cleanings. Use approved hardwood cleaners like BONA that are built for hardwood floors. Avoid store purchased brands like Pinesol, Swiffer Wet, and Murphy's oil soap.

Many woods can be refinished 1-5 times. This is typically necessary every 7-10 years. Call 123-Floor: we do beautiful sand and refinish work!

Carpet

Manufacturers recommend to vacuum (with beater bar) every other day, and daily in traffic areas. A list of certified vacuums can be found at the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) website www.carpet-rug.org. Don't fall for latest gimmick (ex: Dyson) without checking with CRI.

Most consumers abuse carpet; yet expect it to last forever with minimal care. Even the best carpets require maintenance. Remember that carpet is a soft textile, not a resilient floor covering.

Use only truck mounted steam cleaners (hot water extraction) that are approved by the IICRC. Call 800-835-4624 for approved steam cleaners. Locally, I have used North Coast Carpet Cleaning 415-892-8663 and for environmentally friendly cleaning Fiber Care 415-464-9453.

Remove Spots and Spills immediately. The longer the spill sets/soaks in the harder the spill is to remove. No Carpet is stain proof. If you have a spill check with the manufacturer of your carpet so you don't void any warranties. You can also find a stain-by-stain removal guide on the CRI's care and cleaning website.

1. Remove all solid debris. A spoon works great.
2. Blot all liquid with a clean white towel or paper towel. Let the towel absorb, do not rub. Work from the outside of the spill in. You may step on the towel.
3. Do not use over the counter spot cleaners. Use R2X from Shaw or others like Carbona and Energine for oil base spills.
4. Use the following sequential detergent solutions until stain is gone.
 - a. Mix 32 Oz of warm water with ¼ teaspoon of detergent (clear and non bleach) such as Ivory, Dawn or Joy,
 - b. Mix 1 part vinegar to 1 part water,
 - c. Mix 1 tablespoon of ammonia to one cup of water (do not use ammonia mix on wool carpets).
 - d. Call a professional cleaner.