



## LAMINATE MAINTENANCE

Since the inception of laminate flooring, ease of maintenance has been one of its largest assets. Due to the composition and construction of the product, as well as the extremely hard Aluminum Oxide wear layer, laminate flooring is perhaps the easiest type of flooring to maintain.

General daily maintenance requires vacuuming, sweeping and dust mopping. Several generic cleaning solutions are also available to clean laminate floors. Most major laminate flooring manufacturers also have their own cleaning kits with instructions. Most kits contain a terry cloth mop and a spray-on cleaning solution. The cleaner is sprayed onto the mop-head and then the floor is wiped clean. It is very important that you follow the maintenance schedule of the product you purchase. Ask your Nufloors associate for the specifics of maintaining your floor. Virtually all the warranties require a specific maintenance schedule be followed.

Laminate floors are fade, stain, dent, burn and scratch resistant. However, it is still possible that you may end up with a scratch, "nick" or dent that will require repair. Laminate flooring is very tough, but it is not "bullet proof". If a problem arises, there are a few ways to repair or hide the damage:

- The first and most difficult method is to replace the affected board(s). Most manufacturers have instructions on how to replace a board. This will require some tools, patience and skill. "Glue-less" laminate floors should be the easiest when board replacement is required. You can also contact Nufloors for a professional installer's assistance with this.
- Major manufacturers also have "touch up" kits available. These kits may include acrylic or latex putty, wax pencils or crayons. This type of repair kit is for small scratches and/or dents. These kits are a very cost-effective way of repairing your laminate flooring.

### Clean Your Laminate Flooring with These Routine Maintenance Guidelines

- Use a damp cloth to blot up spills as soon as they happen. Never allow liquids to stand on your floor.
- For tough spots, such as oil, paint, markers, lipstick, ink, or tar, use acetone/nail polish remover on a clean white cloth, then wipe the area with a damp cloth to remove any remaining residue.
- Sweep, dust, or vacuum the floor regularly with the hard floor attachment (not the beater bar) to prevent accumulation of dirt and grit that can scratch or dull the floor finish.

- Periodically clean the floor with cleaning products made specifically for laminate floor care.
- Do not 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.
- Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, or strong ammoniated or chlorinated type cleaners.
- Do not use any type of buffing or polishing machine.
- For spots such as candle wax or chewing gum, harden the spot with ice and then gently scrape with a plastic scraper, such as a credit card. Be careful not to scratch the flooring surface. Wipe clean with a damp cloth.

### Protect Your Laminate Flooring to Keep it Looking Like New

- Entry mats will help collect the dirt, sand, grit, and other substances such as oil, asphalt, or driveway sealer that might otherwise be tracked onto your floor.
- To prevent slippage of area rugs, use an approved vinyl rug underlayment.
- Use floor protectors and wide load bearing leg bases/ rollers to minimize the chance of indentations and scratches from heavy objects. As a rule, the heavier the object, the wider the floor protector.
- Maintain a normal indoor relative humidity level between 35% and 65% throughout the year to minimize the natural expansion and contraction of the floor.
- Heating Season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
- Non-Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water during periods of inclement weather.
- Keep your pet's nails trimmed to prevent them from scratching your floor.
- Never try to slide heavy objects across the floor.

The best way to keep your laminate floor looking its best is to understand its limitations. You must follow the maintenance techniques and schedules of the flooring you purchase. Do not mop any laminate floor with soap or water. You should also use floor protectors (felt or other) under chairs and other furniture on the flooring. With proper care, you will enjoy your laminate floor for many years to come.

Please contact Nufloors should you have any questions or concerns. We will be happy to assist you.

*NUFLOORS provides the information contained herein to its customers as an information source only. The products identified in this brochure may have chemicals that cause reactions in certain individuals. Nufloors strongly recommends the use of safety glasses, respirators (masks) and gloves in handling any materials that contain chemicals. Nufloors recommends that you ALWAYS test a small area PRIOR to usage of any cleaning/maintenance product to determine whether the product you are about to apply serves its intended purpose.*