

## HARDWOOD MAINTENANCE



Today's hardwood floors provide natural beauty, superior durability and are available in a wonderful array of colour and grain patterns. Caring for your hardwood flooring is as easy as one-two-three and is a smart investment that will provide you with a lifetime of enjoyment.

With today's advances in wood flooring stains and finishes, cleaning your wood floors has never been easier. Regular maintenance requires little more than sweeping with a soft bristle broom and vacuuming with a soft floor attachment. You should also clean your floors periodically with a professional wood floor cleaning product recommended by your Nufloors associates.

Being a product from nature, hardwood flooring has several characteristics that must be considered. The following checklist is designed to familiarize you with these characteristics. The uninformed homeowner may misinterpret these characteristics as defects:

- Beautiful hardwood floors are a natural product and therefore are not perfect. Accepted industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. The defects may be of a manufacturing or natural type.
- Your wood floor will be affected by two distinct humidity seasons: heating and non-heating. Wood floor dimensions will be affected by varying levels of humidity. Care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 35-55% range.

**Heating season (dry):** Humidifier is required to minimize shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions. Gaps between the boards may develop despite your best efforts.

**Non-Heating season (humid):** Proper humidity levels can be maintained by use of an air conditioner, dehumidifier or by turning on your heating system periodically during the summer months. Avoid excessive exposure to water from tracking during periods of inclement weather. Do not obstruct, in any way, the expansion joints around the perimeter of your floors.

### Easy-Care Maintenance Tips

- Don't damp mop and never clean your wood floor with water and/or vinegar. Do not use any wax or cleaner that must be mixed with water, such as oil soap. This may result in loss of

warranty. Water can dull the finish and permanently damage the wood. Only use cleaners approved by the manufacturer.

- Vacuum regularly using a felt or soft brush head on your vacuum's wand attachment as small stones and dirt tracked in from outside can scratch the finish of your wood floor.
- Use mats at entrances to keep grit and moisture from being tracked in. Do not use rubber, foam back or plastic mats, as they may discolour the floor.
- Wipe spills immediately. When a liquid is spilled onto the wood floor, use a slightly damp white cloth or paper towel to immediately clean up and dry the affected area.
- Exposure to sunlight will bring about subtle changes to the shade of any hardwood floor. Area rugs and furniture should be occasionally relocated to provide even change in shading. This is not a defect.
- Felt pads or floor protectors are required under furniture to minimize scratches. Certain types of casters may damage your floor. Use barrel-type caster wheels or wide flat glides to protect your investment.
- Damage (dents, scratches, stains, etc.) caused by pets is not warranted.
- Your traffic areas will show signs of wear first. A decrease in the luster level of the wood floor will initiate in traffic areas.
- Be aware that high heels can dent a hardwood floor.
- Inspect your hardwood floor from a standing height.

Every piece of wood in your hardwood floor is different from each other. This is apparent from the variance in grain and colour. Wood is full of holes, like a sponge, and like a sponge it absorbs moisture. One piece of wood may have more/less grain than another piece and therefore more/less holes. The more grain/holes, the more shrinkage/expansion with changes in humidity. From this we see the development of overwood. Overwood is apparent on pre-finished floors from day one. Overwood will develop on site-finished floors, through a couple of heating seasons. This is not a defect.

As the installer builds your floor, he will cull the wood. Due to a change in the wood's moisture content, from time of milling, there will be warped boards and slight dimensional changes in each wood piece. The installer will incorporate these pieces into your floor. Some gaps may be apparent but limited.

Minor splinters may be apparent on your new floor but will wear off. This is not a defect. Use of stain, filler or putty stick for defect correction during installation should be accepted as normal procedure.

### Why Hardwood?

- A lifetime investment which adds to homes \$ value.
- Increases the salability of your home.

- Provides beauty and warmth to any room.
- Improves inside air quality, easy care, easy clean and hypo allergenic.
- Easy to maintain

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.*