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TIPS FOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR HARDWOOD FLOOR

Hardwood floors are quite easy to maintain and keep clean. Generally, with the modern finishes, all that is needed is vacuuming or dust mopping on a weekly basis. Like any floor, a hardwood floor should be protected from sand, gravel and mud being "tracked in" by using a mat or throw rug where appropriate.

Wood and water DO NOT mix. If mopping is needed, damp mop never wet mop. Water should never be left standing or "beaded up" on a wood floor. Excess moisture can stain or even warp the floor. Detergents or cleansers can also be harmful and reduce the shine. A 1/2 cup of white vinegar per gallon of water is all that is recommended. Always wipe up spills as soon as possible. In case of flooding (broken pipes, roof leaks, etc.) check you home owners policy for coverage.

Modern finishes are made to last and take a lot of wear. For high traffic areas that may show wear after a year or two, recoating is an inexpensive option. If no waxes or oils have been used on the floor, it is easy, fast and inexpensive to simply have a professional recoat the area. For low traffic areas, recoating is generally not needed for long periods of time.

Damage can result when heavy objects are moved across the floor (washers, dryers, refrigerators, furniture, etc.). To avoid this damage, use proper dolly. It is a good idea to put casters on heavy pieces of furniture and "no scratch" protectors on chair legs for everyday use.

A new finish takes a week or two to fully cure to its maximum strength. Although the floor can be used as soon as it is dry, this should be taken into consideration.

The ease of cleaning and simplicity of maintenance will make your hardwood floor very enjoyable. You will find that the warmth and charm of a hardwood floor will always be fascinating and receive many compliments.

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