# **Polyurethane Finishes**Care & Maintenance Guidelines

#### SWEEP FLOORS OR VACUUM DAILY.

#### KEEP THE FLOORS DRY - ESPECIALLY UNDER RUGS!

If your floor receives water spray from any source, do not cover the area with a rug until it is fully dry. The rug will hold in the moisture, which could take weeks to dry, turning a minor mishap into a problem.

## PLACE WALK-ON AND WALK-OFF MATS AT ALL EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR ENTRANCES

These mats will capture much of the harmful dirt before it reaches the floor. Shake out, wash or vacuum mats and area rugs frequently. If traction or skid-resistant pads are used under area rugs, use one that allows the floor to breathe.

## USE PROTECTOR PADS UNDER FURNITURE

Floor protector pads of soft felt or a similar material should be placed on the bottoms of the legs of all your furniture. Keep the pads clean of grit and periodically replace them.

#### NEVER WET MOP or STEAM ANY WOOD FLOOR

Avoid using mops or cloths that leave excessive water on the floor. Never let a spill of water dry on the floor or put water directly on the floor. In all cases, use a minimum amount of water, when a damp mop or towel is used. Frequent use of water can cause deterioration of the finish and may even cause irreparable damage to the wood.

FOR GENERAL CLEANING, BUY A FLOOR CARE KIT RECOMMENDED BY YOUR FLOORING INSTALLER OR FINISH MANUFACTURER Always follow the finish manufacturer's directions and use their floor care products. Different finishes have different maintenance requirements, and it's best to follow professional advice in this area.

We recommend using Bona Kemi cleaning products available at Home Depot or Lowes. Their ready-to-use solutions or concentrates are easy to use. Simply spray or damp mop, according to the directions on the container. Good for solid site finished floors as well as pre-finished engineered floors.

NEVER APPLY ANY CLEANING SOLUTION WITHOUT CHECKING FIRST WITH YOUR FLOORING INSTALLER OR FINISH MANUFACTURER Oil soaps, lemon oil sprays, liquid waxes or other kinds of cleaning solutions should not be used. Minor stains may be cleaned by rubbing with a lightly dampened cloth of a solution of ½ white vinegar and ½ water. Immediately dry the area using a clean dry cloth.

## RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE FLOOR'S LUSTER WITH OCCASIONAL BUFFING

Buffing with a white pad will restore the luster on most solid floors.

## NEVER SLIDE HEAVY APPLIANCES OR FURNITURE ON YOUR WOOD FLOOR

Pick up heavy items such as appliances, sound system equipment, or rent a furniture dolly with soft wheels. Floor guards are great under appliances, allowing you to move them for servicing without gouging the floor.

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESERVE THE LIFE OF YOUR FLOOR:

- Protect your floor when moving heavy furniture. One idea: Turn a mat over and then place a piece of plywood on it. Put furniture on this so it can slide smoothly over your floor. Make sure the mat's surface is clean and free of sand, rocks, or other abrasive objects.
- Pointed objects such as spiked heels or sport shoes, can easily damage the finish of your floor especially if worn or damaged. Water and sand are the worst enemies of hardwood floors. Next are spiked heeled shoes. This is true for all floor surfaces, even concrete flooring.
- Keep the relative humidity level between 35-55% for your health as well as for your wood floors and wood furnishings. Wood is a natural material that absorbs and releases moisture depending on the relative humidity. With high humidity, wood absorbs the excess humidity and expands, which can cause buckling in the flooring. Keep the humidity level down by using a dehumidifier or dehumidifying air conditioning system or with a heating system and good ventilation. During dry periods (periods of low relative humidity), wood releases moisture and will contract and shrink which can cause gaps between strips and even cupping.
- If the relative humidity is low, use a humidifier to reduce shrinking of the wood. The multilayer construction of reSAWN's engineered flooring is not as prone to movement as traditional solid wood flooring, but it is still subject to the physical laws of nature and can shrink or expand in very dry or extremely humid environments.
- Pet claws should be trimmed regularly to avoid scratching floors.
- Your floor should be protected from sunlight and intense artificial lighting to reduce discoloration. Wood naturally changes color over time and with exposure to light. This is a natural phenomenon with all wood surfaces. Different kinds of wood will change color to varying degrees. This is not a defect. You can minimize this color change by moving around furniture and carpets and reducing strong light sources. These changes in wood color result from the natural process of the wood aging. It is not due to the yellowing of the finish. Although your floors finish is highly wear resistant, more resistant than most competitive products on the market, it is not indestructible. If you follow the above preventive maintenance suggestions, you shall enjoy the beauty of your floor for a very long time.

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