

Laminate Flooring

Guide to Care & Maintenance



Laminate Flooring is naturally durable; learn how to keep it looking great while standing up to the toughest household conditions.

Follow routine maintenance guidelines to clean your laminate flooring

- > 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 any warranty.
- > Do not use steel wool, abrasive cleaners, strong ammoniated or chlorinated cleaners, or buffing machines.
- > 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 wood.
 - a. Heating season (Dry): A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage due to low humidity levels. Wood stove and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions.
 - b. Non-Heating Season (Wet): An air conditioner, dehumidifier, or periodically turning on your heating will help to maintain humidity levels during summer months.
- > Keep your pets nails trimmed to prevent scratching your floor.
- > Never try to slide heavy objects across the floor.
- > A protective mat should be used for furniture or chairs with castors.



Repair your laminate flooring when damage occurs

- > In the event that accidental damage occurs to one of the planks, minor scratches or dents can be repaired using a Flooring Touchup or Color-fill Kit. This special touchup kit is a filler material, color coordinated to the color of your floor so that, when used properly, the repaired area is often invisible. The repaired area will hold up to foot traffic and wear just like the rest of your laminate flooring.

Glueless laminate board replacement and repairs

- > Glueless laminate may be assembled and disassembled several times. Carefully disassembled glueless joints will retain their original locking integrity during re-assembly. New replacement plank(s) should be acclimated in the replacement area for at least 72 hours.
- > Remove baseboard, wall base, or quarter-round as needed to replace the damaged board(s).
- > Take the flooring apart, 1 row at a time, by lifting the rows to detach them; then separating the individual boards. Be sure to stack the individual planks in the proper order for re-installation.
- > Replace the damaged board with a piece from the edge of the original installation.
- > Insert the properly acclimated new plank(s) along the outer edge of the original flooring installation during re-assembly to minimize a newer plank standing out from the wear condition of the original installation.
- > Re-install the baseboard, wall base, or quarter round, and the replacement-repair is complete.