

**H**ardwood floors have been experiencing a resurgence of popularity in recent years. They have natural beauty, warmth and go with any decorating style. Due to improvements in the technology of hardwood floor finishes caring for your hardwood floors has become very easy. While specific finish types may require different maintenance, here are some guidelines that apply to the care of all wood floors.

## PROTECT YOUR FLOOR

Before furniture is put in place apply felt floor protector pads on the bottom of all furniture legs to prevent scratching. Use plastic or rubber castor cups on furniture bottoms with rollers. Do not cover or use rugs on the wood floor for at least one week after the finish has been applied. Rugs should also be placed at all entrances and wherever heavy traffic occurs. Keep pet's nails trimmed and filed in order to minimize surface indentations. Don't walk on your floor with "stiletto-style" heels. Stiletto heels, cleats and sports shoes have high-pressure-point objects that may cause indentations in the finish and wood floor.

## CLEAN REGULARLY

Blot up spills and spots immediately. Dust mop or vacuum the floors with a bristle head vacuum (no beater bars) on a regular basis. Spills and tracked in dirt can build up and will require more than just dust mopping to remove. For easy clean up, use our Sh-mop kit as directed. If you do not have one, lightly damp mop with water or use one of the cleaning solutions listed. Then run a dry towel wrapped around a broom over the floor. At Sandmasters we use and recommend the Sh-mop kit and Pro-Care Citrus cleaner.

**Always check with your floor care professional for the specific floor cleaning method for your type of finish.**

### RECOMMENDED CLEANING PRODUCTS:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Amount mixed with Water</u>
Pro-Care Citrus Floor Cleaner	2 ounces per qt.
Glass Cleaners	1/4 cup per gal.
Powdered Dish Wash Detergent	2 T per gal.

DO NOT USE MORE CLEANER THAN THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNTS. More Cleaner DOES NOT mean better performance.

### DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS ON YOUR WOOD FLOOR:

**Murphy's Oil Soap or any oil based soap cleaner**

**Paste wax**

**Pledge or other wax or silicone-based polishes**

**Fantastic, Formula 409 or other solvent containing cleaners**

**Pine Sol or any pine-based cleaners**

*These products can prevent adhesion during the recoat process.*



## DO NOT WAX OR BUFF!

Water base urethane finishes require little maintenance. Do **NOT** wax or polish your water base urethane floor. Waxes or polishes will create a build up and make the floor harder to clean and cause problems for future recoats. When purchasing products other than those recommended please check ingredients, many cleaners contain items that make recoating impossible.

## PERIODIC RECOATING

A hardwood floor needs attention when the original finish is showing signs of wear but before it has worn down to the bare wood. The best way to maintain the finish on your floor is to have it recoated periodically. This dust free process takes one or two days and major appliances can be left in place. SANDMASTERS recommends having your floor checked after 2 years. When you have a question about your wood floors contact SANDMASTERS.

## CRACKS AND SEPARATIONS

Nearly every floor endures some separation between boards. In winter, when homes are heated and the air is dry, wood flooring gives up some of its moisture and therefore shrinks. When this happens thin cracks appear between boards. This is completely normal. Once the indoor heat goes off in the spring, and the indoor environment regains moisture, most of these cracks will close up. The common cure for cracks is to add moisture to the air during dry periods. You can install a humidifier in the furnace or an exterior air vent for the furnace burner.

( *Cracks and Separations cont.*)

Less expensive ways to add moisture are; opening the dishwasher after a rinse cycle, switching off the bathroom fan or hanging laundry to dry in the basement near the furnace.

## WAX FINISHES

Routine Cleaning - Use the finish manufacturer's or the prefinished floor manufacturer's recommended cleaning system. Never use a water-based cleaner on a wax floor. Once dirt and dust have been removed, the luster may be restored by buffing.

Spills must be wiped up immediately with a dry cloth followed by hand buffing until dry.

Long-term Maintenance - Wax floors that have been neglected may be restored by deep cleaning. An application of a renovating system with fine steel wool, proper dry times and a complete rewaxing will clean and reseal the wood as well as restore color and luster.

Note: Once wax, in any form, has been applied to a wood floor, only wax may be used as a coating over the floor. Urethane and other surface finishes cannot be applied over an existing wax finish.

**Advanced finish technology and innovative products make wood one of the most beautiful and easy-care flooring materials today.**

**Enjoy yours!  
Sandmasters, Inc.**

## Rugs and Wood Floor Care

Wood floors can be beautifully accented by artfully placed rugs and carpets. However, the wrong kind of backing on your rug can damage the finish on wood floors. The rug can move or slide around on the floor and may cause scratching due to the type and coarseness of the backing. You should always use a pad under the rug to protect the wood finish.

Most rug pads are made of rubber and PVC (vinyl). PVC pads contain plasticizers that can cause problems with the finish of a wood floor even after the cure cycle. These products can also damage prefinished floors. Do not use rugs with polyester on the bottom, they will contaminate the finish and it will peel.

The most recommended pad for wood floors is a rubber honeycomb type of pad, which has holes in it. This allows both the finish and the floor to breathe. Solid rubber or PVC backed rugs are not recommended because they do not allow this air movement to occur. Do not use a stiff pad with hard cleats or grippers on the bottom; this can cause indentations in the wood.

Rugs cannot be placed on newly sanded and finished floors until the finish is completely cured. This can take between 7-30 days depending on the type of finish used and the condition of the job site. Prefinished floors should not have rugs placed on them until the adhesive is cured. This varies depending on the manufacturer.

Placing rugs or a cover of any kind over a wood floor before it has cured may cause discoloration, softness, or a change in the luster of the finish.

Sunlight can cause wood floors to change color over time, and thus the wood under a rug or other covering will appear to be a different color than the exposed wood. It is best to move rugs and furniture periodically to maintain a more even color on the floor.

Finally and most importantly, enjoy the natural beauty and comfort of your wood floor. Properly cared for, your floor will provide you with many years of enjoyment.

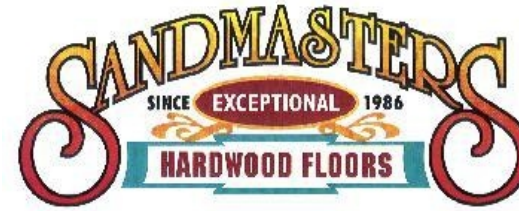
## Appliance Moving

One of the most common reasons for damage to a wood floor is the improper removal or replacement of large kitchen appliances. Even though your wood floor has an extremely durable and hard finish, it is not impervious to scratching or denting. All kitchen appliances need to be moved properly to avoid damaging your wood floor. Please follow these directions carefully:

- 1) You will need a 4 x 8 sheet of 1/8" masonite board or plywood.
- 2) Cut masonite board in half.
- 3) Make sure your floor is clean before you place the masonite board on the floor, trapped grit underneath board will mark the floor.
- 4) Place your board in front of the appliance and roll the appliance onto the masonite board. You can move the appliance all you want on the board and it will not damage the floor. Make sure your board stays in place. If the appliance does not have wheels, you will need an appliance dolly, along with the masonite board. Never drag the board on the floor. Move the object across the board!
- 5) When moving the appliance, roll it onto the first board, then take the second board and place it in front of the first and roll the appliance onto that board. Repeat process until appliance is in desired location. This process also works well when moving large pieces of furniture!

If you are moving an item such as a piano, follow these additional instructions:

Move the item as described above until just before the desired location is reached. Then put smaller pieces of masonite under each wheel, stretching from the last large piece of board and reaching slightly beyond the final location. For example, a piano with three wheels would have three strips of masonite running from the last large masonite board to a point slightly past the desired location. Carefully wheel the item onto the strips of masonite. When the proper position has been achieved, gently lift the item at each wheel separately, carefully lifting the masonite out from under the wheel without dragging it. Place each wheel in a rubber cup made for that purpose. This will help protect your floor when the item is not being moved. Do this for each wheel, carefully setting it back down when the board is removed. Your piece is now in place. After two weeks or more you can carefully wheel it if needed.



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Helping you keep  
your hardwood floors  
beautiful!