

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR TIMBER FLOORS

This guide is part of the manufactures program and wear layer warranty, failure to comply fully, will result in the warranty being null and void. The key to quality maintenance and protection of your floor; the following floor care recommendations are necessary. Please follow this procedure.

1. Place quality mats at all entrance ways, always ensure that these mats are cleaned.
2. Ensure that anybody walking on the floor has wiped their feet and that there are no stones or fine grit or nails on the soles of their shoes, sand and dirt can be abrasive to the timber surface.
3. Place mats in front of the sink in the kitchen or laundry areas.
4. Never wear spiked or stiletto's shoes on timber floors, often these shoes lose their heels without the user knowing and they end up walking with a nail or screw as a heel which can cause extensive damage.
5. Protect your floor by placing protective pads on all furniture or any items that are sitting directly on the timber floor.
6. Do not use chairs with rollers, unless they are rubber, rather place a matt on the floor.
7. Do not drag furniture across your floor.
8. Maintain proper humidity levels between 40-60% throughout the year, in certain countries this may require the use of a humidifier.
9. Avoid direct sunlight, protect windows with shades or window tints.
10. Vacuum your floor regularly.
11. When cleaning, a micro fibre mop is preferred, always mist spray the floor.
12. Do not saturate or pour water directly onto the timber floor.
13. Do not use a steam mop or hot water.
14. Use a mild PH neutral cleaning solution when cleaning your floor.
15. Never apply abrasives chemical or wipe with abrasive cloths.
16. Remove spills promptly, avoid excessive water on the floor.
17. For larger pets maintain their claws, as long claws can scratch the timber.

**POLISH:** Feast & Watson 'Floor-shine' or Bono Parkett 'Freshen-Up' is recommended for use in high traffic residential or commercial areas.

**FLOOR-SHINE:** 'Freshen-Up' will protect your floor and extend the life of the timber floor, it creates an extra surface wear layer which is easily applied using the manufactures recommendations, it adds shine and protection to your floor.

## HOW TO CLEAN HARDWOOD FLOORS

You've just spent a lot of money on a beautiful new hardwood floor. Now protect your investment! Follow these few basic guidelines on how to clean hardwood floors and they will look new for many years to come. *Please note:* this information specifically applies to hard-wood flooring finished with a polyurethane coating. This is NOT appropriate for the older wax-based finishes!



Always vacuum or sweep the hardwood floor first to remove all traces of dust or abrasive residues before cleaning. The grit acts like sandpaper and will do more damage to the finish than years of clean walking.



Spray lightly a proper hardwood floor cleaner on a small section of the floor or directly onto a terry cloth wood floor mop. DO NOT wet- mop the floor. This may leave puddles of water, that can leak down between the boards and cause the finish to lift cupping or warping.



Wipe the floor with the mop, lengthwise with the floor strips using a back-and-forth motion. Finish one section before starting another one. Check to make sure no cleaner has been left on the floor, especially in the V-grooves.

## WITH WOOD FLOORING NEVER:

1. Hardwood floor care should never include wax, or oil-based detergents or vinegar. Vinegar will etch the surface. Waxes and oils leave a sticky residue on the surface of the wood and prevent the polyurethane from shining. When cleaning hardwood floors you need to use a proper hardwood floor cleaner. Our definition of a "proper hardwood floor cleaner" is NOT a "wood floor polish". That usually implies a wax based product (see above). Select a hardwood floor cleaner that is made to be chemically neutral, specifically designed to clean hardwood floors. Vinegar and water or lemon based cleaners, are acidic and will over time pit the polyurethane finish, and ultimately reduce the shine of any wood floor.
2. Never allow large amounts of liquid to puddle on any floor for long periods of time. Dry winter months cause the floor to shrink, leaving gaps between boards.
3. Pathways for puddled water to penetrate below. Trapped water will swell and discolour all woods.
4. Never use a dirty mop to clean hardwood floors! Any grit caught in the mop will scratch the finish.
5. Never drag heavy furniture across your wood floor without something underneath the feet to prevent scratches and distribute the weight.

## TO CLEAN HARDWOOD FLOORS ALWAYS:

1. Sweep regularly to remove sand & abrasive dust!
2. Use doormats at all entrances to catch and prevent sand from getting onto your hardwood floor.
3. Use a rug in front of your kitchen sink.
4. Use floor protection under all furniture legs and rigid pads to distribute weight.
5. Proper hardwood floor care includes maintaining a relative humidity as close as possible to the year round average in your geographic region. Hardwood is a living substance which reacts to changes of relative humidity. It absorbs or releases humidity according to seasons. Consequently, its dimension changes. In summer, when humidity is at its highest, moisture is absorbed by the wood causing it to expand. These variations can be minimized with proper ventilation, dehumidifying or heating. In winter, on the other hand, when the heating system is on, the relative humidity level in the house is much lower. It is then recommended to use a humidifier, in order to minimize extreme shrinkage effects.
6. Leave your "high heel" shoes at the door. Damaged or worn high heels may expose a metal tip which will certainly damage your hardwood floor.
7. Trim your pet's nails.

**First and foremost, use proper hardwood floor cleaners! Remember to use these basic guidelines on how to clean hardwood floors and it will last many years without refinishing.**

## HARMONY PROFESSIONAL FLOOR CLEANING KIT

Harmony's professional floor cleaning kit with powerful Citrus Mist Concentrate provides the perfect cleaning solution for your new floors. Specially designed to give a superior lustre and streak free finish it is the perfect cleaner to keep your floors in optimum condition.

### FLOOR CLEANING KIT CONTENTS

Contents	Description
Citrus Mist Concentrate	A powerful Cleaning Concentrate (50:1)
Citrus Mist Spray Bottle	Use to Apply Diluted Citrus Mist Liquid.

### HARMONY PROFESSIONAL MICROFIBER MOP

Harmony Professional Microfibre Mop is a two part system to help maintain the lustre and finish of your new hardwood floor. With wet and dry heads Harmony Professional Microfibre Mop will remove the most stubborn marks, dust and dirt to give your floor a superior clean and finish.

Contents	Description
Mop	Extending mop with swivel head.
Wet Head	Blue Microfibre head for wet application.
Yellow Head	Yellow Microfibre head for dry application.



Harmony also carries a range of stain pens and waxes to help repair any damage that may occur to your floor due to natural wear and tear. Please contact Harmony Timber Floors for any of your cleaning equipment requirements or queries:

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