

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

SPC HYBRID VINYL FLOORS



www.harmonytimberfloors.com



CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR HARMONY SPC HYBRID VINYL FLOORS

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE IS THE KEY!

Many customers have unrealistic expectations about the life and durability of SPC hybrid vinyl flooring and its coatings. Some customers expect the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring to never mark or wear, to be impervious to spillages and moisture, or to never requiring any form of maintenance. It is better to create realistic expectations upfront by explaining clearly that the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring is a long term investment. If routine cleaning and maintenance is carried out and the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring is protected from various elements such as the sun and moisture, customers can expect to have many years of pleasure from their SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. Basic routine maintenance including sweeping, vacuuming with the brushes out and mopping with a barely moist micro-fibre mop using the manufacturer's recommended cleaner, will remove the buildup of dirt and grit. Failure to routinely clean your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, which if left will leave the dirt to accumulate and act as an abrasive resulting in wear occurring to the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.

Please consult the ATFA website at www.atfa.com.au.

AVOID DIRECT SUNLIGHT

SPC hybrid vinyl flooring will change colour on exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The amount of change is dependent upon the amount of direct and indirect sunlight exposure the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring gets. We see many modern homes with huge expanses of unprotected glass allowing intense morning/afternoon sun to beat directly onto the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. The incredible heat generated not only cooks the surface of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, thereby degrade the finishes, but also increases the chance of the floorboards cupping, peeling, shrinking, bleaching etc. As a result it is critical that customers have blinds, curtains or excellent quality window tint installed and ensure that they are closed at the time of the day when most exposed to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Failure to do this will have adverse effects on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring coatings and performance overall. In order to ensure a uniform appearance for the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, it would be advisable to reposition rugs, mats and furniture periodically. Areas unprotected by blinds, curtains or an excellent quality window tint, will almost certainly suffer adverse effects on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring coatings and performance overall and will not be covered by our wear warranty. Remember, Australia has some of the highest levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation!

SPC HYBRID VINYL FLOORING HANDLES WATER WELL BUT.....!

Although SPC hybrid vinyl flooring handles water better than timber flooring, spillages need to be cleaned up immediately with a mop or towels etc. It is also advisable to do maintenance checks around the perimeters of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, particularly against windows, doors and sliding doors, to see if any ingress of water has taken place. It is also important to check areas around the dishwasher and ice-maker fridge for any potential water damage.

Prior to mopping, vacuum your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring with the brushes out on the vacuum head. When cleaning your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, place the recommended quantity (usually half a cap full) of Parquetpro Cleaner in a 500ml spray bottle. Wet the micro fibre mop head and wring it out. Then mist spray the solution in the 500ml spray bottle onto the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring and mop. When the mop head gets dirty, rinse it out. Do not machine wash the mop head as it degrades quickly. **Do not use a steam mop on your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring!** Steam mops force steam (moisture) into small incisions or breaks that appear in the surface of your floor, causing the finish to peel and delaminate. All finishes degrade over time, a process that is accelerated by heat. Furthermore, avoid wet mopping of the floor, which can leave excess moisture or streaking.

It is also important not to place potted plants directly onto the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, even if they have a tray to catch the water. Condensation of the water in the tray could cause stains to occur on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. Similarly, do not place pot plants in bamboo or grass baskets directly onto the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, as it has happened that leaching has occurred from the bamboo or grass baskets onto the surface of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, leaving distinctive stains.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

Proper temperature control will assist in ensuring that your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring retains its structural ability. Methods to assist in temperature control include circulating the air with fans, opening windows and doors, running air conditioners etc. **Do not leave your home closed up for long periods of time as this could have an adverse effect on your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.** **When extreme cold, heat, dry or wet weather is present, steps need to be taken to control the temperature in your home in order to ensure that your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring retains its structural stability.** It is normal for flooring to expand and contract seasonally, however insuring that the temperature is controlled will help reduce the amount of expansion and contraction. It is also important to consider how electronic items are installed and stored, as the heat they generate can damage the flooring.

FURNITURE PROTECTION

In almost all cases, when called in to assess the condition of a customer's SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, we find the most of the damage tends to occur around and underneath the dining table from poorly or unprotected feet on the chairs. The same applies to bar stools and office chairs on wheels. These areas are subject to a lot of wear and tear, with constant scraping of chairs in and out can quickly degrade the coatings. Most customers have diligently placed felt protectors on the bottom of the feet of the dining chairs and bar stools, only to have them knocked off or damaged over time, leaving the hard wood or metal tip exposed. The best types of furniture protection are the hard plastic cups containing the felt pad that have a nail or pin that can be hammered into the feet of the chairs itself. They don't fall off and should wear extremely well. With furniture legs, it is not so much weight but movement that damages SPC hybrid vinyl floorboards. However, there are a number of other alternatives on the market to consider. It is up to the customer to regularly check their furniture for wear and tear of their floor protection. Underneath office chairs that have wheels, it is critical to place a good quality, non-staining mat or rug, as the wheels will severely damage the SPC hybrid vinyl floors coatings. When moving any furniture it is important to check that the protection placed on the furniture is in place and in good condition.

PETS

We all love our pets, but sometimes they can cause damage to your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. It is advisable to keep your pets toe nails clipped in order to avoid scratches to your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. Furthermore, pet urine and vomit is highly acidic and if not cleaned up in due course will etch in the coatings of your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.

SHOES AND HIGH HEELS

Many people don't wear outside shoes inside for cleanliness reasons. They switch to softer indoor footwear and this not only reduces the cleaning required but also prevents tracking abrasive grit and dirt into the home. This grit acts just like sandpaper on your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. High heels, especially if broken, can also be your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring worst enemy, **particularly stiletto heels, which are an absolute no, no!**

RUGS AND MATS

Good quality, non-staining mats placed inside and outside all entrance doors are the next best solution to prevent tracking abrasive dirt and grit inside. Good quality, non-staining mats placed in high traffic areas such as at the kitchen sink or in hallway, greatly assist in the reduction of wear to these areas. Move good quality, non-staining rugs and mats periodically, as ultraviolet (UV) light can change the colour of the exposed SPC hybrid vinyl flooring giving the floor an uneven appearance. Furthermore, it is important to not place rubber-backed or latex-backed anti-slip mats underneath rugs and mats. It is also important to consider the backing on your rugs and mats, insuring that they are non-staining and not made of latex or rubber. Coconut fibre mats can also cause staining on your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. Place good quality matting at the entrance to the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. The aim of a matting system is to remove dirt/grit and moisture from the feet of people entering the building to prevent that material scratching or wearing away the finish film. Underneath office chairs that have wheels, it is critical to place a good quality, non-staining rug or mat, as the wheels will severely damage the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring coatings.

PROTECTING OF NEWLY INSTALLED FLOORING DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Never cover newly installed flooring with plastic or non-breathable products, as it could cause the flooring to sweat and have an adverse effect on the product. Always use breathable products like Ram Board or similar, as these are breathable products. Please also visit the Australasian Timber Flooring Association website at www.atfa.com.au for a comprehensive guideline on how to covering flooring during the construction process.

CLEANING PRODUCTS

Never ever use common household products like all-purpose household cleaner, window cleaner, steel wool pads, aerosol furniture polish, wax or similar products to clean your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. Some are too abrasive and will scratch the surface of your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, whilst others will make your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring dangerously slippery and could leave a film of silicone or wax on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. A lot of people might think methylated spirits or kerosene is all right to use. They are not! Any type of petroleum distillate will degrade the finish of your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring over time and eventually cause it to look irreversibly dull and drab. It is best to use the finish suggested by Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd, following the directions for use. However, if none is available, then some warm water with a little mild, neutral PH detergent added works well. Again mist spray or squeeze the mop out and dampen mop only. Some choose to buff the floor with a soft cloth afterwards to ensure no water is left on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. Running ceiling fans at the same time as mopping will assist in drying the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring quicker. SPC hybrid vinyl flooring can be slippery when wet, so it is important to ensure that care is taken not to use too much water when cleaning. To remove stubborn or sticky marks, do a test patch using little methylated spirits or white vinegar, mixed with water and applied to a clean rag. Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd suggests using a product Parquetpro which is a PH Neutral cleaning agent, which can be directly purchased from them. Other PH Neutral cleaners can be used and their instructions followed accordingly.

REGULAR INSPECTIONS

Do inspect your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring regularly for any signs of damage or wear and tear, taking the appropriate action where necessary. This step alone can save you much heartache and money. Early intervention in most cases means minor problems are able to be fixed without major expenses occurring. Please feel free to call Harmony Timber Floors Pty Ltd for advice on 1300 725 257 if you have any concerns.

SUMMARY: SOME DOES AND DONT'S IN A NUTSHELL

DOs

- Do move furniture and good quality, non-staining mats and rugs periodically, as ultraviolet (UV) light can change the colour of the exposed SPC hybrid vinyl flooring, giving the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring an uneven appearance.
- Do have blinds, curtains or excellent quality window tint installed and ensure that they are closed at the time of the day when most exposed to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Do place good quality, non-staining mats inside and outside all entrance doors. This is the next best solution to prevent tracking abrasive dirt and grit inside.
- Do use a lightly damp micro fibre mop and the recommended manufacturer's cleaning agent, following the recommended cleaning instructions.
- Do clean up any spills immediately.
- Do vacuum with the brushes on the vacuum head out.
- Do switch to softer indoor footwear as this not only reduces the cleaning required but also prevents tracking abrasive grit and dirt into the home.
- Do use a PH Neutral cleaning agent as recommended by the manufacturer
- Do ensure that the PH Neutral cleaning agent is mist sprayed onto the flooring, followed up by mopping it up with the micro fibre mop. SPC Hybrid vinyl floors are slippery when wet, so use water sparingly.
- Do keep your pet's claws clipped.
- Do clean up any pet accidents immediately.
- Do place protection on the feet of furniture in the form of felt protection.
- Do purchase at least a spare box of the Hybrid Vinyl flooring purchased, in case any future repairs or additional SPC hybrid vinyl floorboards are required.
- Do inspect your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring regularly for any signs of damage or wear and tear, taking the appropriate action where necessary.

DON'Ts

- Do not use mats and rugs made of made of latex or rubber matting.
- Do not expose your SPC Hybrid Vinyl flooring to direct sunlight for long periods, particularly at the time of the day when most exposed to ultraviolet (UV) rays.
- Do not let sand, dirt or grit gather on your SPC Hybrid Vinyl flooring. These elements will act like sandpaper and are abrasive, scratching the surface of the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring and causing a dulling to its coatings.
- Do not use excessive amounts of water when cleaning the SPC Hybrid Vinyl flooring. **Do not use a steam mop on your SPC Hybrid Vinyl!**
- Do not place weights of more than 150kgs directly on the joints as it could cause the locks to break.
- Do not place excessively heavy items of furniture such as a baby grand piano, heavy bookcases or a billiard table etc. on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring as it could cause expansion issues or breakage to the locks.
- Do not wear high heels or stilettos when walking on SPC Hybrid vinyl floors. They can severely damage the floors and leave dents on the surface.
- Do not wear shoes with soles that are deeply ingrained, such as work boots, as they can often have a stone stuck in the sole and cause dents and scratches on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring. Be careful and always check the soles of your shoes first.
- Do not use regular household detergents or cleaners on SPC hybrid vinyl floors. These products can dull the coatings on SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.
- Do not let your pet's claws grow to long as they can cause scratches on the SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.
- Do not allow pet urine or vomit sit on SPC Vinyl flooring for long, as they are highly acidic and will etch in the coatings.
- Do not leave the feet of furniture unprotected, as this will cause the coatings to scratch when moving items of furniture around.
- Do not leave areas where the SPC vinyl floors have been installed un-ventilated for a long time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to visit our website at www.harmonytimberfloors.com or calls us on 1300 725 257.

Please also visit the Australasian Timber Flooring Association website www.atfa.com.au for further information on how to care and maintain your SPC hybrid vinyl flooring.