



2018 Browns
**HARDWOOD
CARE
GUIDE**



HARDWOOD CARE TIPS

Daily Schedule – Dust/Sweep

Giving your floors a good dusting with a microfiber mop or cloth will be your best daily defense against scratches and surface damage. Microfiber cleaning pads often use static electricity to trap dirt, particles, and other household allergens. Using a broom can be effective as well, but using a broom only pushes the dirt around. When you want to clean your floors without damaging them, avoid lifting your microfiber mop up off the floor when you clean—this way you keep the dirt trapped on the pad.

Weekly Schedule – Vacuum/Mop

Weekly maintenance will deal with the harder to reach areas that a daily dusting can't reach. Vacuums and wet mops are ideal for getting dirt out of trouble areas like corners and the spaces between each piece of hardwood. However, using vacuums and mops come with extra caution when you want to clean floors without damaging them. If your vacuum has a beater bar, make sure it doesn't hit the bar floor. Also, the wheels on a vacuum might damage the floor. When you're using a mop, remember that water and wood don't mix! Avoid putting excess liquid on your floor. Lightly misting your floor with a hardwood floor cleaner will be enough to give it a great clean. A gentle touch is one of the best ways to clean hardwood flooring.



Advanced Tips

Use proper tools to clean your floor – a mop paired with a machine washable, micro-fiber pad for dusting and cleaning. Electrostatic action attracts dirt, microparticles and common household allergens.

Avoid using water and vinegar, soap-based cleaners, wax or steam cleaners on your hardwood floors. Vinegar and water actually dull the floor's finish over time, while soap and wax leave residue. Steam cleaners put heat and excessive water on your floor, which can lead to cupping and long-term damage.

Regular dusting and cleaning keeps hardwood floors looking new. But protective mats can further your floor's life. Use natural rubber rug underlayments with a waffle pattern in entry ways or high traffic areas, and use felt floor protectors on furniture.

Depending on the amount of traffic in your home, we recommend polishing the floors every 2-3 months with our Bona Hardwood Floor Polish and sanding and refinishing approximately every 3-5 years.

Monthly Schedule – Polish

Polishing your floor every few months is a great way to clean hardwood flooring. Polishing renews and refreshes the finish that protects your hardwood floor. With floors that have some kind of protective sealant, it is the finish that is getting the most attention when we clean—not the actual hardwood. Polishing your floor fills in microscopic scratches and evens out a floor's protective surface. Polishing a hardwood floor is not a difficult task and can be done with a minimal amount of effort.

Yearly Schedule – Deep Clean

With all the abuse we put on our hardwood floors, consider giving your floor a deep clean or a sand and refinish every 3-5 years. Sanding and refinishing your floor completely removes the old protective finish and replaces it. If your floor has some deep scratches or gouges, sanding and refinishing can repair this damage, leaving you with immaculately clean hardwood flooring.



Other Considerations

Here are some extra tips that will lead you on the best way to clean hardwood flooring:

- **Use Mats.** Place mats or rugs at entryways or other traffic areas to minimize the amount of dirt and debris that gets onto your floors. Make sure the protective coverings you use are designed for wood floors. Some rubber-backed mats can trap moisture, damaging floors in the process.
- **Things to Avoid.** Avoid using water and vinegar, soap-based cleaners, wax or steam cleaners on your hardwood floors. Vinegar and water actually dull the floor's finish over time, while soap and wax leave residue. Steam cleaners put heat and excessive water on your floor, which can lead to cupping and long-term damage.
- **Traffic Concerns.** As you come up with your maintenance routine, remember that the overall use of your floors will dictate how often you need to clean. High-traffic areas may need to be mopped or polished more often, while less-frequented floors can go a bit longer between more intense cleanings.
- **Finding the best way to clean hardwood floors** will take some time and patience, but with the right tools and techniques, you'll be able to keep your floors looking their best. Remember that the time you spend maintaining your floors pales in comparison to how much time you'll spend enjoying your floors.
- **Bona offers a wide selection of cleaners and hardware** that will make cleaning your hardwood floors a breeze. Find the right tools and give your floors a phenomenal clean.