

AZALEA LANE

Hardwood Care & Maintenance – Willow Creek

To maintain the appearance and functionality of your hardwood floor, proper care is essential. Thanks to today's modern finishes, caring for hardwood flooring is easier than ever. Keeping the following guidelines and recommendations in mind will help ensure that your floor ages beautifully.

KEEPING YOUR HARDWOOD FLOOR BEAUTIFUL

Azalea Lane hardwood floors are factory finished using the latest advanced UV cured urethane finish. Our tough, durable finish is easy to maintain, following our simple guidelines.

Sweep and vacuum your floor regularly. Gravel and dirt of any kind have the potential to damage the floor if not removed properly and promptly. Vacuuming, with a floor attachment rather than a beater bar, is preferred to sweeping because it not only addresses the surface of the floor but pull particulates from between the planks.

We highly recommend BonaX Hardwood Floor Cleaner and BonaX Micro-Fiber Mops and Cleaning Cloths to maintain our floors. Contact your retailer or visit <https://us.bona.com/lines/hardwood-floor-cleaners> or call (800) 872-5515 for your nearest dealer, technical department, or advice on maintaining or restoring your floor's finish.

Using any of the following items to maintain your wood floor will void all manufacturer warranties:

- Water or Steam Mops
- Oil Soap
- Vinegar, Ammonia
- Household Detergent
- Wax
- Furniture Polish
- Dust Control Sprays
- Cleaners that leave an acrylic finish

Any of the above can damage the finish, leave greasy films, discolorations or make the floor slippery and hard to maintain. If any improper cleaning methods are used to maintain your hardwood floor, the homeowner or end-user will be responsible for all subsequent damage to your wood floor.

WATER AND WOOD DON'T MIX

Never allow water (or other liquids) to stand on a hardwood floor for any length of time. Also, don't ever pour water on your floor; it can cause damage to the wood's structure and to the finish. Water causes wood to swell, resulting in raised edges, possible finish peeling, etc.

Do not allow ice cubes to melt on the floor. Check in front of the dishwasher, sink, and refrigerator and around the pet's water bowl. Don't track snow or water onto your floor without immediately drying it up. Look for water leaks under doors to the outside and near sliding glass doorways.

Steam mops use water vapor under pressure, and we cannot recommend them for that reason. String and sponge mops should not be used as they hold a lot of water.

Relative humidity is also water, and maintaining a range of 30% - 50% relative humidity will contribute to the satisfactory performance of your flooring. If relative humidity is allowed to become too dry or too wet, various problems may result, such as small splits/cracks, cupping, gapping, etc. Shutting off heating, ventilation or air conditioning systems for extended periods of time, such as summer vacations, can have a detrimental effect on the floor.

USE OF MATS AND AREA RUGS

Place mats with stiff bristles at all exterior entries to the house. A softer area rug or mat should be used on the room side of exterior doors. Consider using area rugs for high traffic areas or children's' rooms to keep wear to a minimum. Rugs should be approved for hardwood floors and have a mesh backing or grid pattern to allow the floor an opportunity to breathe. They will help collect the dirt, sand, grit and other substances such as oil, asphalt or driveway sealer that can otherwise be tracked onto your floor. Place mats or rugs in areas that are prone to spills, such as in front of the sink, refrigerator and stove. Cotton mats are recommended because they are easily cleanable. Mats with rubber backings can trap moisture on the floor and cause damage.

In areas exposed to sunlight, rotate area rugs regularly and use window coverings to protect against sun exposure and uneven patina.

SCRATCHES, INDENTATIONS AND GOUGES

The removal of shoes upon entry is always a good idea, particularly when high-heeled shoes are in disrepair or have lost their protective caps. Pets should have their nails and claws trimmed on a regular basis to avoid scratching a gouge marks. Never walk across your floor in shoes that have cleats or spikes.

Felt pads, wide vinyl pads or rubber, non-marking casters should be placed on all legs of chairs and furniture. These pads should be checked once a month for wear and embedded grit. Replace as needed. Do not use ball-type casters or casters made of hard materials such as plastic or metal; these can damage your floor. If you have furniture fitted with plastic, vinyl or metal leg tips, it is not sufficient to stick a piece of felt under such tips. Instead, for plastic and vinyl tips, purchase replacement tips with fused felt that will ensure a permanent bond between the tip and the felt pad. For metal tips, purchase tips on which felt pads have been applied at the manufacturing plant.

Use floor protectors and wide, load bearing leg bases or rollers to minimize scratches, gouges and indentations from heavy objects. Rollers or casters should be at least one-inch-wide and made of non-marking hard rubber. Metal or plastic types should never be used.

When moving furniture, care should be taken to place something between the furniture and the floor. For heavier pieces or appliances, place a sheet of plywood under the object being moved to distribute the weight. Do no roll or slide on your wood floor; it may severely damage your floor.

There are no finishes available to the wood flooring industry that will not scratch, indent or gouge. Azalea Lane does not consider these issues to be warrantable.