

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HARDWOOD FLOOR

### CLEAN YOUR FLOOR ONCE A WEEK

The fine grit in dust is like sandpaper and will slowly wear the finish off your wood floor if left unchecked. To clean, vacuum or use a dust mop. You can also use a microfiber sweeper (Swiffer) because they work great. My recommendation is to use Bona cleaning products. Those can be found at Lowes, Home Depot, Target, and many other stores.

### WATCH OVER-SPRAY

Products like furniture polish and hairspray leave a film on your floor which will interfere with subsequent finishes. Wipe up any residue immediately with a damp cloth!

### KEEP WATER OFF THE FLOOR

Water and wood don't mix. Water not only ruins the finish on a hardwood floor surface, it can soak into the wood and cause buckling, cupping, and stains. When it looks like rain, close your windows. Put trays under potted plants and wipe up any water immediately. If you find a leak in your house address it right away: a small leak can cause big problems!

### REMOVE RESIDUE WITH A NON-WAX FLOOR CLEANER

Bona Wood Floor Cleaning Solution works well or good old vinegar and water does the trick (one part vinegar to ten parts water). It's good to keep this solution in a spray bottle under the sink or somewhere else convenient. Wipe up spills and dirt immediately, then use the cleaner to remove the residue. **NEVER USE MURPHY OIL SOAP or products with wax in them!!!**

### USE AN EXTRA-LONG DOOR MAT

Doormats: inside and out. The more dirt or snow you can keep off the floor, the better. Get a nice 4- to 6-foot long mat for the front door or the door you use the most. The longer the mat leading up to the door, the dirt and moisture will be removed from shoes as people walk in, even if they don't stop to wipe their feet. In the house, I'm a stickler for no shoes (this rule also solves lots of problems).

### PROTECT HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS

The more you walk on an area, the more it wears down the finish on your floor. Rugs are the easiest way to reduce wear, but make sure they don't have a backing. Vinyl or rubber backing traps humidity, which can ruin your floor's finish and stain or damage the wood. Keep bumpers on the legs of your furniture and chairs: bumpers really keep down the amount of scratches and wear over time. Put mats under your computer chairs! I've had to re-sand many a room because of hard wheels on a chair.

### IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, CALL US

I'm here to help. Advice is always free from Raven and many other flooring companies, so feel free to call.