



THE NOBILITY OF WOOD AT YOUR FEET

Maintenance guide

Floor Care

No other floor covering matches the quality, warmth, comfort, beauty, value and ease of maintenance of your **ForeFloor** hardwood flooring.

Like any other floor covering product, your **ForeFloor** hardwood floor requires regular upkeep. Here are 2 quick and easy maintenance steps as well as practical tips and recommendations to help you preserve its beauty for years to come.

1. Sweep or vacuum frequently to eliminate traces of grit (dust, sand, gravel, etc.) from floor surface. This debris can permanently alter the floor's finish.
2. Clean your floor with **ForeFloor** cleaning products. Simply spray your **ForeFloor** dustmop with **ForeFloor** cleaner and mop your floor in the direction of the strips. Do not use domestic, commercial or industrial cleaning agents on your **ForeFloor** floors. These products can damage the floor's finish or diminish its lustre.

Avoid spraying too much **ForeFloor** cleaner onto your **ForeFloor** dustmop, as excess liquid can damage the wood. The dustmop should be damp, not wet.

Machine-wash your dustmop in the regular cycle without using fabric softener in the washer or dryer.

Remember that abrasive dust particles damage wood floors; this is what sandpaper is made of. Inadequate cleaning could void your **ForeFloor** warranty.

Preserving your FORESFloor hardwood floor

You can preserve the appearance of your **ForeFloor** hardwood floor for generations by following these tips and recommendations:

- Use only **ForeFloor** cleaning products as they are designed to leave the floor's finish intact. These products are non-abrasive and leave no residue. The use of domestic, commercial or industrial cleaners such as wax, oil-based soap, etc., can leave a greasy film or tarnish the floor's finish. Also avoid cleaning with a vinegar solution, as it can have an oxidising effect on the DuraStar urethane finish.
- Quickly wipe spills from floor with a soft, dry cloth.
- Place felt pads under chair and furniture legs to avoid scratches and facilitate movement. Replace pads regularly and ensure they are clean before moving furniture.
- Check chair and furniture casters to ensure they are wide and made of rubber or soft polyurethane. If not, replace them with casters made for hardwood floors or use a protective mat or rolling surface made of plexiglass. Furniture and chairs with rollers are often the cause of important damage made to hardwood floors.

Preserving your FORESFloor hardwood floor (continued)

- Place mats in front of the sink, dishwasher and other work areas to protect your FORESFloor hardwood floor in areas where water, detergent, grime and utensils falling to the floor could damage it. Do not use tightly woven mats or those with rubber backings as they retain grit and moisture.
- Place mats at all home entrances to avoid the tracking in sand and dirt on your FORESFloor hardwood floor.
- Lift furniture or other heavy objects to move them or place a thick mat under furniture to slide them.
- Avoid spike-heeled shoes, sharp objects and shoes with cleats.
- Avoid walking on your FORESFloor hardwood floors with outdoor shoes. These shoes are the best carriers of sand and other abrasive dirt that could damage your FORESFloor hardwood floor. Keep a pair of shoes to be worn exclusively indoors. Ensure these shoes have a soft sole that doesn't grip abrasive dirt. By respecting this recommendation, you will protect not only your FORESFloor hardwood floor, but all the other floors in your home as well.
- Keep pet claws trimmed. When you hear your pet's claws on the floor, it's time to get to work.
- The DuraStar finish is designed to minimize discoloration of the finish. However, even if the finish itself changes very little, the wood "ages" and can change color. This is a natural phenomenon that is more noticeable on maple and American cherry wood. Protect your hardwood floor against direct sunlight or prolonged and repeated exposure to intense artificial light to minimize premature aging of the wood. Occasionally move rugs, mats and furniture to even out color changes in the wood.
- Maintain your home's temperature between 18°C and 22°C at all times and its relative humidity as stable as possible between 37% and 45% by using appropriate devices such as humidifiers, dehumidifiers, air exchangers, etc.

Troubleshooting

Problem

- Slight scratch or burn
- Deep scratch
- Food or beverage stain
- Candle wax, crayon or chewing gum
- Oil and grease stains

Solution

- ⇒ Use your FORESFloor touch-up kit
- ⇒ Replace damaged strip. Follow replacement instructions.
- ⇒ Spray FORESFloor cleaner on stain and wipe immediately with a soft, dry cloth. Repeat as needed. Do not use domestic, commercial or industrial cleaning agents directly or indirectly on your FORESFloor floors.
- ⇒ Place ice cubes in plastic bag, place bag onto soiled spot and leave it until matter hardens to a crumble. Spray FORESFloor cleaner on stain and wipe immediately with a soft, well wrung-out cloth.
- ⇒ Spray FORESFloor cleaner on stain and wipe immediately with a soft, well wrung-out cloth.

Résolutions de problèmes (continued)

Problem

- Ink
- Stubborn stains
- Scuff marks

Solution

- ⇒ Apply lighter fluid onto a dry cloth and wipe. Then spray **ForesFloor** cleaner on stain and wipe immediately with a soft, well wrung-out cloth.
- ⇒ Apply white vinegar directly onto stain and let set for 1 to 2 minutes; wipe with a soft, well wrung-out cloth. If stain remains, apply lighter fluid onto a dry cloth and wipe. Spray **ForesFloor** cleaner on stain and wipe immediately with a soft, well wrung-out cloth.
- ⇒ Spray **ForesFloor** cleaner on stain and wipe immediately with a soft, well wrung-out cloth.

Replacing a damaged strip

Replacing a damaged strip is a quick, straightforward process compared to sanding and refinishing the entire floor. Please note that this procedure applies to seriously damaged strips located in key areas. To perform this task, all you need is 30 minutes of your time, a few basic tools and a little manual skill.

- Select a replacement strip that would blend in with the floor from those left over from the original installation.
- Using a wood chisel, cut (rip) both edges of the damaged strip. You may use a circular saw instead of a chisel. If you do, you must adjust blade height to the thickness of the floor, 13 mm (3/4"), to avoid damaging the subfloor.
- Next, with a chisel, remove the center section of the strip to be replaced and carefully remove the side pieces taking care not to damage surrounding strips.
- Thoroughly clean the hardwood surface as well as the subfloor surface.
- Trim replacement strip to required length by cutting on tenon (male) end.
- Remove the lower part of the groove (mortice, female side) on the end and side of the replacement strip.
- Partially insert the strip, as a test, and remove it.
- Redo the Micro-V joint at the end of the replacement strip with sandpaper, stain touch-up (if necessary) and quick-drying urethane.
- Then spread glue onto subfloor and secure replacement strip into position.

If the job is done right, nothing will show. It's also preferable to perform this task in dry weather, when flooring strips are not swollen with moisture. You could have difficulty positioning the replacement strip in humid weather, when the strips have expanded in width due to high moisture in the air.

Restoring the finish

This process is usually done by industry professionals. These experts perform an in-depth sanding of the floor, removing all traces of the original finish. In so doing, they erase slight and moderate scratches in your flooring. However, the unpleasant side effects of this process, such as excessive dust, are aspects to consider before making this decision. The process outlined here is an alternative which can be performed by the homeowner. It requires basic tools, a few hours' work and an eye for detail and accuracy. It's perfect for floors which have lost their original gloss over the years but have few moderate scratches.

Unlike the in-depth sanding done by professionals, this process allows you to preserve the complete thickness of your floor and thus prolong its life by many years. Plus it's much less expensive and the results can be excellent.

- The hardwood flooring must be clean and free of residue or grease.
- Lightly sand finished surface evenly with a synthetic abrasive pad or extra-fine sandpaper in order to even out the gloss of the finish without damaging the stain (if applicable) or the wood. Sanding should be done in the direction of strip length to create a good adhesive surface for the new urethane and avoid rub marks.
- Vacuum and wipe floor with a damp, well wrung-out cloth to remove any trace dust. It is very important to ensure the floor is clean before applying urethane because the final result will be greatly affected.
- Apply adhesive primer before applying urethane. Follow primer manufacturer's instructions.
- Dry according to primer manufacturer's instructions.
- Light sanding may be needed if the floor finish is uneven. This will tell you that the floor was not properly cleaned prior to application of the primer. If this is the case, lightly sand the hardwood floor in the direction of strip length, vacuum again and wipe with a damp, well wrung-out cloth to remove trace dust.
- Apply a layer of urethane finish according to urethane manufacturer's directions.
- Dry according to manufacturer's recommendations. At this point, the result could well be satisfactory.
- If not, lightly sand as you would at the primer stage and apply an additional coat of urethane according to urethane manufacturer's instructions.
- Please note that sanding, primer application and urethane application must always be done in the direction of strip length.

In addition, most freshly-applied urethanes are generally fragile for the first few days following application. You should therefore take great care in putting furniture in place. Take advantage of this opportunity to replace felt pads beneath furniture.