

NEW FLOOR CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

New Floor Care:

- ❑ **AFTER THE FINISHING IS DONE**, use your floor with care for the first two to three weeks after application of the floor's finish.
- ❑ **YOU MAY WALK** on your floor in socks for the first 24 hours after application of your final coat of finish. The longer you can stay off the floors, and postpone moving furniture back onto the floors, the better. Curing can take as long as several weeks, depending on conditions, and the finish is easily scratched during this time. Lift and set the furniture in place rather than dragging the furniture across the floor.
- ❑ **DAMP MOPPING** your new floors should not be done during the first two weeks.
- ❑ **OUR TECHNICIANS** will close windows to eliminate drafts during application of finishes. Windows should be opened as soon as possible after the finish is dry on the surface. Airflow across the surface will help the finish cure and harden; so, if it is possible, and you can enter the house without having to cross the finished floor, open some windows after about four hours. Trapping the gasses in the home slows the curing process and lengthens the time that the odors are in the home.
- ❑ **YOUR FLOOR SHOULD BE PROTECTED** with *Red Rosin Paper* if heavy traffic or other tradesmen are expected (use as little masking tape as possible, and try to tape to the paper itself). Additional protection such as plywood should be placed on top of the rosin paper before moving heavy appliances, pianos, and furniture: **especially refrigerators**.
- ❑ **RUGS** with plastic or rubber backings should not be used for four to five weeks (one to two weeks for natural fiber rugs) while the finish cures. Water based finishes require one week to cure.
- ❑ **MOVING BOXES OR CARTONS** may stick to the finish as it cures and should never be placed on a newly finished floor.
- ❑ **CHAIR FEET** should be **protected** with felt or carpet to reduce abrasions. We carry excellent floor glides for this purpose. **Remember:** Measure the diameter of your chair legs before coming to our shop so you can select the correct size of glides.

New Floor Maintenance:

- ❑ **USE AN UNTREATED** dust mop and vacuum regularly to remove grit which causes wear and scratches.
- ❑ **WALK-OFF MATS** at exterior doors should be used to help prevent materials from getting on the floor. Area rugs should be used below sinks and other wet service or high traffic areas.
- ❑ **NEVER WAX**, but instead, use *Murphy's Oil Soap*, *Pledge Floor Cleaner*, *Endust* or similar products on your new hard surface finished wood flooring.
- ❑ **MAINTAINING YOUR FLOOR** with a clean **damp** sponge mop can be done if you then **towel dry** the floor to remove the excess moisture. Use a solution of one cup white vinegar to a gallon of water. We stock cleaning products for use with *Glitsa* and/or other finishes.
- ❑ **HEAVILY OR TOO FREQUENTLY WASHING** your floor can cause cupping and/or cracks to develop from abortion of excess moisture.
- ❑ **TOWEL DRYING** also prevents film buildup. Frequent scrubbing of floors may dull the finish, especially homes on wells. Drying your floor will help prevent a film build-up. Wood floors should not be washed like linoleum or tile.
- ❑ **PICK UP DAILY** spills with a damp sponge and dry towel. Mild liquid soap may be used on stubborn spots. **Do not flood your floor with water!**
- ❑ **35% to 45% RELATIVE HUMIDITY** Hardwood flooring manufacturers recommend the use of a whole house **humidifier** to maintain moisture in the home.
- ❑ **WET SHOES** should not be allowed to pool and dry on floors.
- ❑ **CLAY FLOWER POTS AND DRIP PANS** bleed through moisture and should not be placed on hardwood floors. Be careful when watering any plants.
- ❑ **PREFINISHED WOOD FLOORING** products are provided with their manufacturer's own care and maintenance information. Please follow the care and maintenance information provided with your factory prefinished wood flooring.

When your finish shows wear call Meyer Skidmore & Co. @ (303) 444-1174 to schedule a recoat!



What To Expect:
Movement by Expansion and Contraction

- ❑ **HARDWOOD FLOORS** are a **natural** product and subject to **expansion and contraction** due to temperature and humidity changes. All of the materials we supply are inspected and milled to the National Oak Manufacturers Association (NOFMA) standard. So, although your new floor will start out tight, it will continue to absorb and expel moisture from season to season. This process is different for each home, and depends on the dampness of your crawl space, relative humidity, heating methods, and other factors. **You can expect some cracks and shrinkage to show up in your new floor.**
- ❑ **PINE FLOORING** is more susceptible to shrinkage. Pine flooring comes to us with much higher moisture content because of limitations in drying the wood for milling purposes. Pine *will* shrink and show cracks in our climate, especially in the wider widths.
- ❑ **MAPLE FLOORING** shows cracks and shrinkage more than other woods. This is due to its flat grained surface and because the color of the wood is so light. Maple also expands and contracts more than many other woods.
- ❑ **WHITE-BASED STAINED FLOORS AND LIGHTER WOODS** show cracks and shrinkage more readily because of the contrast between the light color of the wood and the darker color of the cracks. This is also true of floors finished with most water-based finishes.

- ❑ **WIDE PLANKING** floor installations, whether it is oak or any other wood will show more cracks and shrinkage.
- ❑ **SQUEAKS** in your flooring may develop due to the natural expansion and contraction process. We recommend installation across the joist, and the use of ¾ inch plywood for a sub-floor material. We **do not** recommend the use of particleboard as a sub-floor material for the installation of wood flooring.

What Not To Expect:

- ❑ **A TABLE TOP FINISH:** Each piece of flooring sands differently, depending on its grain type or direction, making it virtually impossible to achieve a completely flat surface. Red oak flooring will show grain texture on the surface. Maple and other tight-grained woods will show seams on the side and ends of many boards.
- ❑ **DUST FREE FINISHING:** Since your floor is being finished in your home, it is not possible to achieve a "clean room" environment. Some dust and other debris will fall onto the freshly applied finish. Most debris will wear off as you walk across the floor. Flat-grained woods such as Maple will show this more.
- ❑ **A MONOTONE FLOOR:** Wood as a natural product and varies in color and texture from piece to piece. Remember, wood flooring is not fabricated, it is milled from trees and will have grain and color variance consistent with grade and species of the flooring selected.
- ❑ **FLOORS THAT WILL NOT CHANGE COLOR:** Direct sunlight will cause fading and yellowing. There will be a difference in appearance between a new patch or repaired area, and the old existing floor. Newly milled floors have a lighter appearance than woods that have aged. Using stains to try and match new and old floorings will not necessarily give you a consistent appearance.
- ❑ **A FLOOR THAT WILL NOT INDENT:** Hardwood floors will indent under high-heel traffic, golf shoes, bicycle shoes as well as all heavy objects. Watch for things with small casters such as pianos, refrigerators, and heavy furniture. Pine flooring is very soft and will dent and groove very quickly.
- ❑ **HARDWOOD FLOORS THAT CAN BE TREATED LIKE LINOLEUM OR TILE:** A wood floor is simple to care for. You need to keep it clean by dust mopping or vacuuming. Occasionally you can damp mop your floor, but you **cannot** wash your floor like you can linoleum or tile. Heavy objects should not be dragged across a wood floor, and be careful of spills when watering plants.