

CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE



Waterproof Wood Core Flooring

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1. QUICK CARE RULES

- Keep it dry first: vacuum or sweep daily; damp-clean only when needed.
- Never flood the floor. Remove spills immediately and keep moisture exposure brief and surface-only.
- Use only neutral pH cleaners (≈ 6.5 – 7.5). Avoid vinegar, bleach, ammonia, oil soaps, waxes, and abrasive cleaners.
- Use microfiber mops or soft cotton cloths; avoid abrasive pads and steel wool.
- Use hard-floor vacuum setting (no beater bar or power head).
- Maintain indoor relative humidity between 40%–65% and a stable temperature year-round.
- Use quality entry mats and install felt pads/chair mats under furniture; lift, do not drag.
- Do not apply polishes, shine agents, or recoating systems; replace damaged planks instead.
- Tip: In high-traffic zones, add walk-off mats and runners to extend finish life.

2. ROUTINE CLEANING

- Daily Cleaning: Vacuum or sweep with a soft brush or microfiber mop to remove dirt and grit.
- Weekly Cleaning: Light damp-mop using a neutral, manufacturer-approved cleaner. Wring mop thoroughly and dry any excess moisture immediately.
- After Renovation or Construction: Remove debris dry first, then perform a light damp clean with a neutral cleaner.

3. AFTER INSTALLATION / INITIAL CLEAN

Perform a gentle initial clean using a slightly damp microfiber mop; avoid heavy mopping for the first 48 hours.

If factory residue is present, use a lightly damp cloth; rubbing alcohol may be used for residue removal. Wipe afterward with a clean damp cloth.

4. SPILLS, MOISTURE & WET CLEANING LIMITS

- Promptly remove all liquid spills. Never allow standing water.
- Damp mopping is allowed with a slightly damp mop, not wet; always dry the surface after cleaning.
- Never flood the floor; prolonged moisture exposure can cause edge swelling.
- For leaks (dishwashers, fridges, plumbing), stop the source immediately, dry thoroughly, and inspect plank edges; replace planks if swelling occurs.
- Do not use in rooms with continuous moisture or flooding risk (e.g. indoor spas, steam showers).

5. STEAM & POWER EQUIPMENT

Steam-equipment: Steam-based cleaners designed for use on hard surface floors and for residential use only are approved.

- Use only low-heat steam mops operated in continuous motion, never leaving a steam unit

stationary. Always use the lowest steam setting, ensure microfiber pads are clean, and avoid prolonged exposure to high heat or standing moisture.

- Steam cleaning is not recommended for commercial environments.
- Steam cleaning is allowed only for dry rooms, not bathrooms with steam showers or wet zones.

Power equipment: Avoid mechanical floor scrubbers, buffers, or any abrasive tools (including steel wool). These can scratch or dull the surface finish.

6. APPROVED CLEANERS & RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Approved cleaners:

- Use neutral pH hard-surface cleaners or water-damp microfiber cloths. Acetone may be used for stubborn spots (applied carefully on a white cloth), followed by a damp wipe and immediate drying.
- Avoid vinegar or acidic DIY mixes, bleach, ammonia, oil soaps, waxes, polishes, abrasive powders, or products that leave residue. Always dry the surface after cleaning; never leave stagnant moisture.

Recommended products (Everyday vs. Deep Cleaning):

- Bona Stone, Tile & Laminate Floor Cleaner: pH-neutral, streak-free, and water-based.
- Zep Hardwood & Laminate Floor Cleaner: Stronger formula for occasional use in high-traffic areas; use sparingly and dry promptly.
- Better Life Naturally Dirt-Destroying Floor Cleaner: Plant-based, non-toxic, and biodegradable.

- Use Bona as your main cleaner, Zep for heavier soil, and Better Life as a sustainable option. Always apply with a slightly damp microfiber mop and avoid over-application.

7. SPOT & STAIN REMOVAL

Everyday spots: For oil, marker, ink, tar, heel scuffs, or gum, use an acetone-based cleaner on a white cloth. Rub gently, follow with a damp wipe, and dry immediately.

Paint & ink: Use acetone or nail-polish remover on a cloth; wipe and dry immediately.

Pet accidents: Clean promptly with a mild neutral cleaner; never allow moisture to penetrate joints.

Disinfection: Use only neutral pH products; avoid bleach, ammonia, or acidic solutions.

Heavy stains or build-up: Use a manufacturer-approved neutral cleaner and repeat as needed until clean.

8. FURNITURE, MATS & SURFACE PROTECTION

- Install non-staining felt pads on all furniture legs; use chair mats under rolling chairs.
- Lift heavy items or use sliders or protective panels, never drag.
- Use breathable rug pads (felt or mesh). Avoid rubber-backed mats that may discolor the floor.

- Place entry mats at exterior doors and clean them regularly to limit grit and moisture.

9. CLIMATE CONTROL (HUMIDITY & TEMPERATURE)

- Maintain indoor RH 40%-65% to reduce expansion, contraction, and static buildup.
- Keep a stable indoor temperature consistent with normal living conditions.
- For radiant-heat installations, follow LifeProtect's guidelines and do not exceed system limits.

10. SUNLIGHT & APPEARANCE

- Use window coverings to reduce direct UV exposure and maintain color consistency.
- Do not apply wax, polish, or shine agents; maintain the natural matte finish.

11. HEAVY LOADS & MOVING APPLIANCES

- Place dense felt or plastic pads beneath heavy or vibrating objects (pianos, appliances).
- When moving appliances, lift or roll over protective panels, never dragging directly on the floor.

12. REPAIRS

- For minor surface scratches, use a color-matched repair kit or touch-up pen.
- For deep gouges or severe damage, replace the affected plank following LifeProtect instructions.
- Wood core surfaces cannot be refinished; replace damaged planks instead.

13. NOISE, HOLLOW SOUNDS & SQUEAKS

- Floating floors may sound different from glued floors. Proper underlayment and subfloor flatness help reduce hollow sounds.
- Temporary squeaks may occur if moisture enters joints; allow complete drying and stabilize humidity.

14. SPECIAL SCENARIOS

- New installations: Only light dry cleaning for the first 48 hours; no water immersion or heavy mopping.
- Commercial or high-traffic areas: Increase cleaning frequency and maintain neutral-pH cleaning.
- Allergen control: Vacuum and dry clean regularly to reduce dust.
- Vacancy or seasonal homes: Keep climate control active to maintain RH 40%-65%.
- Robot vacuums: Dry-clean models with soft wheels are permitted; ensure no wet function is active.
- LifeProtect is not recommended for high-humidity rooms such as saunas or indoor pools.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL & END-OF-LIFE

- Follow LifeProtect's floating floor replacement procedure for plank swaps.
- Recycle or dispose of planks per local regulations for wood-based products.

16. LONG-TERM CARE SUMMARY

- Clean regularly with dry methods; use damp cleaning only when necessary with neutral cleaners.
- Control humidity (40%-65%) and temperature to prevent movement and noise.
- Use pads and mats for protection against scratches and impact.
- Avoid flooding, waxes, polishes, or harsh cleaners.
- Replace planks if permanently damaged as Wood core floors cannot be refinished.

17. DO'S AND DON'TS

Do:

- Use soft pads and mats to protect surfaces.
- Clean spills immediately.
- Vacuum or sweep regularly.
- Use neutral pH cleaners and microfiber tools.
- Maintain proper humidity and temperature.

Don't:

- Use wax, polish, oil soap, or abrasive cleaners.
- Use steam mops incorrectly (never let steam rest in one spot).

- Drag heavy furniture or appliances.
- Allow standing water or moisture to remain.
- Expose the floor to direct, concentrated heat or open flame.

This guide summarizes LifeProtect's official care and maintenance recommendations based on industry best practices. Following these steps will help preserve your floor's appearance and performance for years to come.