

SCOUTING | BUYER'S GUIDE

# Shopping for the Best Hardwood Floor Cleaners All Depends on Your Finish Type

We asked the experts how to get it right.

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Published Feb 25, 2022 1:03 AM



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Cleaning your hardwood floors doesn't have to be complicated; in fact, there's just one rule you need to follow. Wood has been labeled as a high-maintenance material choice in recent years, but it's an incredibly durable floor covering—in some instances you can safely use the same cleaner on multiple flooring categories, even vinyl, because what you're washing isn't the wood itself but the top layer. So whether you have solid or engineered planks or strips, all that matters when picking out the best hardwood floor cleaners is the type of finish you have.

Experts reveal the finish is generally one of two things: a traditional oiled finish or a sealed finish (like polyurethane or aluminum oxide). The latter is far more common—in fact, [Revel Woods](#) cofounder John Dupra estimates that 90 percent of wood floor owners today have planks prefinished with a sealer that sits on top of the floor like a protective barrier. The former is a penetrating finish that soaks into the wood and hardens to reinforce the surface, which is why you'll need a very particular type of cleaner. (Hint: It's also usually oil-based.) Read on to discover our favorites (with an emphasis on good bottle design and easy application), plus what to look out for on a label.

## Our Favorites

- Best scent: [Koala Eco Floor Cleaner](#)
- Best value: [Grove Co. Floor Cleaner Concentrate and Spray Bottle](#)
- Best oil: [Murphy Oil Soap](#)
- Best for spot cleaning: [Supernatural Wood and Floor Cleaning Set](#)
- Best for deep cleaning: [Kinfill Floor Cleaner](#)

Best Scent: [Koala Eco Floor Cleaner](#)



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*Scent: Mandarin and peppermint | Concentrated solution: Yes | Volume: 24 fluid ounces |  
Good for: Most hard surfaces (including sealed and waxed wood, engineered stone,  
concrete, and vinyl)*

**What we like:**

- Affordable
- Biodegradable, plant-based formula
- Natural citrus and peppermint fragrance

**Worth noting:**

- Free shipping on orders over \$65

**Why we chose it:** A refreshing citrus scent sans chemicals that will make your room smell like freshly squeezed oranges.

This large 24-ounce bottle of cleaning concentrate will likely last you years, and we love that you won't be able to find any dyes, masking agents, synthetic perfumes, chlorine, or bleach on its ingredient label. As a natural, nontoxic formula, however, it's still incredibly powerful—it cut through greasy grime no problem, and since it's pH-neutral and doesn't contain alcohol, it won't dry out your wood floors (or furniture, for that matter). Even when you only use it for a quick spot treatment, you'll be able to enjoy a scent on par with cutting a fresh orange. And while it doesn't arrive in a refillable bottle, the packaging is made from 100 percent recyclable, post-consumer plastic, complete with a label that reminds us of an antique botanical print pretty enough to frame and hang on a wall.